



St. Paul News

The Newsletter of
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Ida Grove, Iowa

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June

2020

Be Prepared!

“In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.” 1 Peter 3:15

There has been ongoing jokes about 2020. In January there were the fires in Australia, the death of Kobe Bryant, and conflict between the US and North Korea. We had an impeachment process, COVID/19, Murder Hornets, the death of George Floyd, riots in Minneapolis.

How can there be hope? How can you have hope in the midst of so much turmoil? So many are sick. So many injustices. Freedoms being threatened in various forms. So many worried about their livelihood. So many of our hopes and joys for 2020 have passed by. How can we still have hope?

Because Jesus Christ died on the cross on April 3, 33 AD. On April 5th he rose from the dead. By his dying and by his rising, those who confess him as Lord shall have eternal life. Those words of 1 Peter tells us that we are to be prepared to make a defense for that hope. The fancy word for this is “apologetics”.

This past month a giant of the faith died. His name was Ravi Zacharias. Zacharias was a gifted orator, and a great defender of the faith. His life and ministry is a reminder of the urgency of defending the faith. To be a Christian does not mean that you check your brain off at the door. Zacharias was evidence of this. There are many great videos on YouTube of Zacharias speaking words of defense of the faith.

There are many places one can turn to learn to defend their faith. Books such as *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis or *Did the Resurrection Really Happen* by Gary Habermas are excellent resources for learning to defend the faith. If Christ did not rise from the dead we have no hope.

However, the evidence bares it out. Jesus did rise from the dead, and for that reason we can have hope no matter how dark the world may be. Are you prepared to defend that hope? Are you prepared to speak it to others? Read books such as mentioned above. Listen to podcasts such as Issues Etc. Watch videos from Ravi Zacharias. There are many resources out there for learning to defend the Christian faith. Of course attend worship services and Bible studies (even if they are currently online).

Read, mark, and inwardly digest that you may be His witness. Yet do this with gentleness and respect. Don't be a bully. Don't mock people. Be patient, make use of the fruit of the spirit as you defend the faith. The gospel is offensive, so you will offend people. But be sure that the Gospel is what offends, and not you and your pride. The world is filled with darkness. Yet we remain in this world to bring light into darkness. That light is Christ. Carry that light to those in darkness, that they too may bare that light and have hope in the midst of trying times. In Jesus' Name. Amen. Pastor Neil Whemas

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for ANY ITEMS for in the **July Newsletter by June 16th**

Remember it's up to you or your family members to let the church office know if you are hospitalized.

CHURCH NEWS

OFFICIAL ACTS – **Transfer In:** Brad Hansen from Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rockwell City, IA

Funeral: Berdine Petersen

NEED A DEVOTIONAL RESOURCE you can access with your cell phone, tablet, or computer? Check out the Congregation at Prayer on Facebook. Daily scripture readings, weekly hymns and parts of the catechism. This can even be used with your children. Daily Scripture readings have devotional thoughts in the comments

section. Find a link to it on the church's Facebook page. If you have questions, or need a quick link to this resource e-mail Pastor Neil Wehmas, pastorwehmas@gmail.com

FROM THE ELDERs *Jon Devitt, Dennis Clausen, Clay Miller, Jeff Gilbert, Brent Harm, Aaron Hoffman,*



We are following CDC recommendations for Covid-19 mitigation protocols. That means that we limit worship attendance to insure safe distance (6') between worshippers which means that our maximum occupancy in the sanctuary is approximately 90 persons. So at this time we will have 1 service only on Sunday morning at 9:00AM

If you would like to, you can also come sit in your car in the church parking lot at 9AM and tune into FM 97.1 and listen to the worship service, if it happens to be a communion Sunday, you will be instructed when and you can come inside the doors of the Narthex, receive the Sacrament and exit down the hall and out the door by Pastors office.

The entire sanctuary will be misted with an anti-viral agent before each worship service. Hand sanitizer and face masks are available in the Narthex, or you can wear your own.

We will continue put our services on the Internet via St. Paul Lutheran Facebook page, St. Paul Lutheran Church Ida Grove You Tube page, the St. Paul website and on the Local Cable Channel (Longlines) on All recordings will be available on Sunday afternoons at 2:00PM

If you know of someone who does not have these capabilities to watch the Worship Services and would like a DVD copy of the Sunday Worship please let the church office know 364-2918

Please check our website www.stpaulig.org for various information including links for our recorded worship services. Links for various information for Daily Devotions, kids Daily Devotions, etc

As we begin our worship service on Sundays, volunteers are needed. We need ushers, tech personnel, etc. If you are willing to be a part of this effort please call the church office.

It will be imperative to have at least 4 ushers per Sunday to accommodate the social distancing and other measures we are needing to take at this time. Contact the church office or Jeff Gilbert if you are willing to help out ushering. Sign up sheet is on the Welcome Center

Prayer: If you have any prayer requests simply call the church office. Please keep all health care workers, emergency personnel and law enforcement personnel in your prayers and honor them with your respect as well as follow their instructions. They are on the "front lines" during this time.

Also available on the Website under the bulletin tab will be Congregation at Prayer, Weekly Worship Service, and Weekly Bulletin. Other various items will be under the "What's Happening" Tab.

KNOW AND PRAY FOR YOUR ELDER

Elder	Household Name Begins with ...
Jeff Gilbert	Aa - Er
Jon Devitt	Es - Iz
Brent Harm	Ja - Lor
Dennis Clausen	Los - Ree
Aaron Hoffman	Ref - Tar
Clay Miller	Tas - Zz

FROM THE BOARD OF HUMAN CARE *Daisy Thayer & Glenda Hausman*

FROM THE PARISH NURSE As our congregation prepares to start public worship again, I wanted to share the guidelines that are being used to do so in a way to worship together but also keep in mind the health and safety of ourselves and others. This information is from the Iowa Department of Public Health webpage: <https://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/61/covid19/Guidance%20-%20Religious%20Facilities%20and%20Places%20of%20Worship.pdf> Guidance for Spiritual and Religious Gatherings During COVID-19.



This guidance is intended to assist churches, synagogues, and other houses of worship in safely navigating this public health disaster emergency:

- ❖ Provide, whenever possible, options to conduct activities from home or through remote audio or video services. Staying at home continues to be the best way to slow the spread of COVID-19. Holding a remote worship service or continuing to offer remote access will help protect those who should continue to avoid gatherings, especially our most vulnerable Iowans with preexisting medical conditions and those older than 65. **(We will continue to offer the worship service on Facebook, Youtube, broadcast on the local access channel, and DVD.)**

❖ Consider smaller in-person services or conducting services outdoors. In communicating with congregants about these measures, high-risk individuals should be advised not to attend in-person services. Creative means should be used to deliver services, such as smaller services throughout the week or weekend, outdoor services, or drive-in vehicle events.

❖ Follow sanitation and hygiene measures for all in-person religious gatherings. This means a house of worship must be sanitized regularly, separate entry and exit points may be designated (establishing a one-way traffic pattern), doors may be propped open or held open by ushers to prevent congregants from touching doors, and hand sanitizer should be available for use throughout the facility. Communion service should be individualized and conducted in a manner to minimize close interaction, and any offering collection must avoid a common plate or container that is passed from person-to-person. **(There will be instructions and signage to accomplish this. Please follow instructions.)**

❖ Apply social distancing guidelines. Facilities should move chairs or designate seating areas to ensure the ability of congregants that are not members of the same household to sit at least six feet apart. Congregants should be discouraged from shaking hands or otherwise engaging in physical contact. **(Pews will be marked by tape as per the social distancing guidelines.)**

❖ Follow other general Public Health COVID-19 Reopening Guidance found at: idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/61/covid19/IDPH%20Reopening%20Guidance%204_27_20.pdf as appropriate.

Please be patient and kind as we navigate through this together. If you don't feel comfortable coming to a public worship service, stay home and use the video alternatives to worship.

Sue Salcido RN FCN

LIFE QUOTE "As you love the Savior, and through Him the members of your family, seek to remember how it is



Lutherans
For Life

when Christ attends a wedding. He is not only to be a permanent and prominent Guest in your home; He should be its most visible centerpiece, enriching your marriage and empowering your relationships with others." *Rev. Dr. Armin Oldsen, former speaker of "The Lutheran Hour" – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

COMMUNITY BASKET Donations for June: personal care items: bath soap, toothpaste, tooth brushes, shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, etc.. All items are appreciated as well, as they can always use donations. The Community Basket is open on Thursdays (except 3rd Thursday), from 2:30-5:30PM. The **Mobile Pantry** will be at United Methodist Church, Holstein on **June 18th from 4:30-5:30PM**

FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP & MISSIONS *Darcy Sibenaller & Deb Clausen*

We would encourage all to continue with your offerings either by dropping them off at the church, mailing them or doing electronic giving through your bank. Keep praying for God to lead us all through this time!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

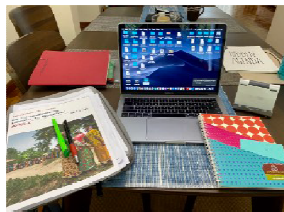
The love of material things is epidemic in our society. Unfortunately, as Christians we are not exempt from materialistic interests. Peter Wehner wrote, "In pursuit of wealth and worldly pleasure, Christians have become virtually indistinguishable from the rest of the world." Jesus warns us as follows: *"What good will it be for a man if he gains the world, yet forfeits his soul?"* (Matthew 16:26). With God's help, we can overcome the attraction and pull of money and material things so that God remains in control of our lives.



GOD IS THE SOURCE AND OWNER OF ALL. As stewards, we possess what he entrusts to us.

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it" (Psalm 24:1).

SHARA OSIRI IN KENYA A New Normal... Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia! We pray that you had a wonderful Easter. For the first time in our lives we have celebrated Easter in a "new" way. Our East Africa team gathered together by Zoom to celebrate our risen Savior and congregations streamed services online. Things have changed. We are living a "new normal." This new normal may bring fear, anxiety, and loneliness yet we can take comfort and trust in our risen Lord to be our refuge and our fortress. Let us abide in the shadow of the Almighty. He is with us through these trying times.



How does ministry look in this "new normal"? I have been working from home;

one half of my dining table has become my new office. Our team continues to communicate regularly, meeting for daily devotions and Sunday services by Zoom. It is difficult being in God's mission and not in the field in community with those we serve, building and nurturing relationships. We are doing our best to continue supporting the work of the church bodies we serve alongside. Social media platforms have been essential tools. We have been sharing stories on the LCMS international website and Facebook in addition to sending messages of encouragement by email and through phone calls. Some church bodies have been able to use the radio to share the Gospel and encourage their congregations. Others are streaming daily devotions and Sunday services online. Many are involved in food distribution to support the communities they serve.

What does this "new normal" look like in Kenya? Travel restrictions, curfews, wearing masks, and embracing the social distancing guidelines are part of the "new normal". Day laborers, street vendors, "mama mbogas" (women who sell vegetables and fruits) struggle with these changes due to the difficulty in finding work and making enough to provide food for their families. Nairobi streets have since become deserted with business restricted only to essential services. With Kenya currently experiencing the long rainy season, some parts of the country have been severely affected by floods. Lives have been disrupted and people displaced. Our home service has been canceled. We are sad that we will not be able to visit with you in person. We will continue to send our newsletter and updates. Thank you for your prayers and know that we are praying for you.

Yours in Christ.... Shara & Michael

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES *Ross Ladwig, Jeremy Mason, Doug Hanson & Brandon Johnson*
Project Updates: Exterior gutters on church have been cleaned.

FROM THE BOARD OF EVANGELISM / ASSIMILATION *Kristy Gilbert & Janet Goodenow*
MAIN STREET LIVING IS A LUTHERAN TELEVISION PROGRAM that is endorsed by the Iowa West District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The program receives no funding from the District, but is totally funded by viewers and congregations of the KCAU Viewing area. The program is broadcast on **KCAU, the ABC network affiliate in Sioux City on Sunday morning, starting at 10:00 AM**. The first 30 minutes are remastered episodes of the popular "This is the Life" series that was very popular in the 70's and 80's. The second half of the program is a modified Lutheran worship service that features a different Pastor each week, from the station's broadcast area.



WEBSITE Our website is designed to make it smart phone (mobile), laptop, tablet, and desktop PC friendly. The same content is present no matter which device you're using. The website recognizes what device is seeking access and then arranges the content to fit the device. Scan the QR symbol with your smart phone and get direct access to our website. Check out our website for links to our facebook pages and twitter accounts. www.stpaulig.org

FROM THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION *Amy Godbersen & Jennifer Larsen*
THEOLOGY VIA ZOOM (also know as "Theology at Zimmy's") led by Pastor Wehmas. Bible Study meets weekly on **Thursdays at 6:30PM** on Facebook (as long as Zimmy's is closed). If you would like to join this study contact Rev. Wehmas at pastorwehmas@gmail.com. He will then send you the link to join the study. We still welcome you to come at any time to join us!

FROM THE BOARD OF YOUTH AND FAMILY LIFE *Synda Jepsen & Amy Bennett*
Lutheran Youth Fellowship
Daily Videos

Every day I am creating and posting videos to help you with your journey through this time. I am using YouTube/Facebook to post daily devotions. The range from 7-12 minutes, examining a specific passage of scripture. On TikTok and Instagram, I am posting 60-second daily nuggets of thought. My TikTok Channel is @PastorNeil. Instagram channel: @stpaulig_lyf

Lutheran Youth Fellowship May 2020

Graduate Recognition

Graduate Recognition will be Sunday, June 14th @ 6:30pm. I look forward to celebrating the class of 2020. It has been a joy to spend these last three years with you. It will be a joy to celebrate your graduation on June 14th.

Youth Room

Much thanks to Aaron and Anna Hoffmann for painting the Youth Room wall. The back wall has been painted a burgundy. Following Lillian Hoffmann’s cool idea, we continue to put your names on a Youth Room Wall. Names will be signed on the white squares, each square dedicated to a graduating class. Class of 2020 will be the first to put their names upon the wall.

Pastors and Youth Leaders

There will also be a square dedicated to the pastors of our congregation, and a square to youth leaders. Karen Petersen for all of her years of service deserves the chance to literally leave her mark upon that room.

Daily Videos

Every day I am creating and posting videos to help you with your faith journey. I am using YouTube/Facebook to post daily devotions. The range from 7-12 minutes, examining a specific passage of scripture. On TikTok and Instagram, I am posting occasional videos reflecting upon God’s word. My TikTok Channel is @PastorNeil. Instagram channel: @stpaulig_lyf

Keep Eyes Open for Other Opportunities



Just a reminder: Rescheduled Voters’ Meeting will be on Sunday, June 14 immediately following the Worship Service in the Sanctuary, We are still in need of an Elder and a person for Youth and Family Life.

Also until further notice we will only be having 1 Worship Service and that will be on Sunday mornings at 9:00AM, social distancing of 6 ft between worshipers and also as of now our maximum capacity for worshippers is 90 persons. You can listen to Worship at 9:00AM in our parking lot on FM 97.1 or it will be online or local cable channel at 2:00PM Sunday afternoons