

E-Letter April 23, 2020  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

## "EXTENDING CHRIST'S LOVE TO YOU"

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."* Romans 1:17-18 KJV

CHURCH SERVICES AND ALL EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED through May 4<sup>th</sup>. The worship services are available on-line. See links below.

Pastor Andrix has recorded the worship for this Sunday, April 26 (Acts 2:14a, 36-41, 1 Peter 1:17-25, Luke 24:13-35). The Order of Service is included at the end of this e-letter. The video can be viewed by going to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com). On the You Tube site, search for donandrix (one word). All the services he has recorded for St. Paul's are there. You may also go to Facebook, St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Pastor Schwanke recorded the worship for last Sunday, April 19 (Acts 5:29-42, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31). The Order of Service to follow along was at the end of last week's e-letter on April 16. The video can be viewed at this link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H\\_IHIIN\\_zFk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_IHIIN_zFk)

For video and/or audio on-line worship go to the church website at [www.stpaulswatertown.org](http://www.stpaulswatertown.org) To hear an audio version, click on the Resource tab, then select Sermons from the drop-down menu, then click on the date of the sermon you want to listen to. Also, the videos of the worship services are on Facebook and YouTube. There is a link on the front page of our website [www.stpaulswatertown.org](http://www.stpaulswatertown.org) to the video that is on Facebook.

ST. PAUL'S NEW WEBSITE: We have a new website that was rolled out this week! Thank you to Randy Poyorena for working many hours on setting this up for us! Please take the time to register and check it out. There is also a new "Donate Now"

button that will link you to Lutheran Church Extension Fund (Joyful Response). You may donate either one time or recurring. We are in the process of adding credit card donations as well. The credit card feature should be available next week. Please refer to the Treasurer's Report below for more information.

CONTRIBUTIONS: Thank you to those who have chosen to mail in their contributions and/or dropped them off and put them in the red basket by the office window. The St. Paul's Lutheran Church's mailing address is P O Box 697 Watertown. MN 55388.

F.Y.I. Our average monthly giving for the first quarter is \$33,200.00. Voters passed a budget commitment of \$44,600.00 per month.

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Friday, April 24 Office open 9 to 2

Tuesday, April 28 Office open 9 to 2 (Next e-letter)

Wednesday April 29 Office open 9 to 4 and Pastor Don's Office hours 1 to 4

Thursday, April 30 Office open 9 to 2 (Next e-letter)

Friday, May 1 Office open 9 to 2

Pastor Don is available 24/7 at 952.457.0093.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday May 10 Confirmation

Sunday May 17 Installation of Rev George Morris

## PRAYER CHAIN

If you would like to be placed on the confidential Prayer Chain for additional prayer, please call Judy Hoogland at 952.955.2124 or 612.554.4795. This ministry is for you to use!

Please call a fellow member especially if you suspect they have no email. Help each other to stay connected and informed.

## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CONTACT INFORMATION:

Church Phone: 952-955-1498

E-mail - [skohls@stpaulswatertown.org](mailto:skohls@stpaulswatertown.org)

Website - [www.stpaulswatertown.org](http://www.stpaulswatertown.org)

Vacancy Pastor Rev. Don Andrix 952.457.0093

Visitation Pastor: Rev. Tom Colgrove 763.614.9622  
Preaching Assistant: Rev. Gerald Schwanke - 1-320-282-9838  
Pastor Andrix is available 24/7. The church number is routed to  
Pastor Don's cell phone when the church office is not open

#### VOTERS ASSEMBLY REPORTS:

Congregation President Report by Doug Hoese:

Greetings fellow members of St Paul's. Truly hoping this message finds everyone safe and well. God bless.

Pastor George Morris installation is still set for May 17<sup>th</sup>. We don't yet know what kind of service or how many people will be able to attend. We do know he will be our full-time pastor.

Since the quarterly voters meeting scheduled for this Sunday is postponed, the next best thing is to get the church board updates to you by this e-letter.

There are many things going on at St Paul's even though the doors may be closed. Some meetings have gone on via Skype and Zoom. Even a bible study. It is a great use of technology that I didn't think that an old guy like me would have use for. We also know that each day the sun rises, and the earth goes about its business as God has directed ever since creation. We also know that God is in charge. He is a big God and can take care of big problems. Every day at 3:16 I pray for the members of our church. I have heard comments of how much people do miss seeing and visiting with their church family. Hopefully we can meet again soon.

Vacancy Pastor's Report by Pastor Andrix:

It was about six months ago, an Elder from St. Paul's called me to see if I would serve as vacancy pastor here. Agreements were worked out, at the end of October I was installed, and on November 1, I began serving here.

Little did I know that within six months we could not meet together, either to worship or to have a regular Voters' Meeting. Because we want to obey those in authority—our governor—we have been told it is best to “stay at home,” and that is what we are now doing. But our church constitution also says at this time we are to have a Voters' Meeting. What the council came up with was trying to make the most of both what the state says as

well as what the Voters decided. The council thought that if each group would at least report what has happened during the past quarter, then you would remain informed.

I know that Susan has been trying to share through an email or US mail, what she has received regarding the news at St. Paul's. It is normally at a Voters' Meeting that the various ministries of St. Paul's report details of their activities that usually are not presented to the general membership. We hope these reports will help you to know more regarding what is happening here while we are not able to gather together. Hopefully, you know that Rev. George Morris has accepted our call as pastor and will be installed on May 17. As of this writing, details of the exact time have not been made. This Thursday our Circuit Visitor—Pastor LaPlant—and the Elders, and I will meet digitally, to discuss the issues we face and what will be the best way to transition to our new leadership. The same group is also planning to meet Pastor Morris digitally on April 30 to finalize arrangements.

This year time changes occurred in the Lenten services. The Ash Wednesday service attendance was one person less than the year before. The next services, as I remember—before we had to only have worship on-line—showed improved attendance by our younger families as well as increase in total attendance. I would suggest that you consider doing this next year for the entire Lenten season. At the last Wednesday service before everything had to go digital, a visitor—somewhat new in our community—attended because they liked the time it was conducted. I am not aware how many, or how often, our Lenten services were viewed on-line.

From my experience at Emanuel, Hamburg, we recorded and then showed through public access via the local cable network, our worship services for the community and shut ins. I believe this began about 1990. I know that it helped to have things set up for a quality recorded service when one could no longer gather in a building. I am simply suggesting that this may be one item you might want to consider so when new residents of Watertown want to see what your worship service is like, you are able to present a quality product for them and thereby encouraging them to become part of your worshipping community.

Finally, I want to thank all the people who have done a great job in cooperating with me during these past six months while I served as vacancy pastor. I am very grateful that you have as a major priority Christian Education, both at the grade school level, being a member of LHS, and the attendance at Adult Bible Study. I pray that as Pastor George becomes your under-shepherd, you will show him the respect and love you have shown to me.

Treasurer's Report by Denise Berg: The COVID-19 has brought a totally unexpected concern to our family, friends, jobs and even our church. In accordance with the government, St. Paul's has decided to shut down all services and activities through at least May 4, 2020.

With that being said, there are still expenses that have to be paid. Mortgage, salaries, insurance, electricity, phone bill, etc. We run the church on a week to week basis and losing offering that comes in every Sunday can be detrimental to our operations. I know some of us have lost jobs, had our hours cut, receiving little to nothing in unemployment and continue to have bills coming in as well. For all of you, it is our prayer that you turn to your church family for support and prayer and look to our faithful Lord for strength in these tough times.

The purpose for this letter is to update you on our giving options. Along with the option listed in our e-letter, we now have a way of giving online. I am excited to announce that starting April 21, on our website [www.stpaulswatertown.org](http://www.stpaulswatertown.org), we have a "Donate Now" button to click on that allows you to give through the site. You can select one time giving or recurring donation and choose the amount of your donation. The other nice thing about this online donation is once we get back to regular worship and you are gone one week, you can sign on our website and give at any time in just minutes. PLEASE NOTE: If you try to use this online giving option before Tuesday, April 28, you may not see an option for using a credit or debit card (This will be added by Tuesday). The only option listed at this time is donate by your checking or savings accounts.

Some of us have already received our stimulus check from the government, so along with our regular Sunday offering, I am asking everyone to prayerfully consider giving a portion of this money to our church. It's not hidden that the church depends on

gracious donors from the congregation. We are called to live sacrificially and trust in God's provision when things are abundant and when things are scarce. In this unprecedented time, we as a church are reminded and comforted that our God is provider and healer. We are trusting that God will lay it on our hearts to continue giving or increase our giving during these difficult times so that our church will be able to continue sharing the good news of Christ's completed work with our family and neighbors here in Watertown.

I look forward to the day we can all worship together again in one place.

*"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."*

1 Chronicles 29:14

Christ Community Lutheran School Board of Education Report by Amy Weege

CCLS is off to a great start for 2020.

Pre-School/ Kindergarten Open House was in January.

Gift of Hope/ Mortgage Debt Reduction Campaign is in full progress. Both of the houses the Foundation Board had have been sold. And as of 4/2/2020 we have received/ commitments of \$133,000

Ron Schmidt "and Crew" cleaned the Gym Floors.

The Board is still working with GuideOne for the hail damage settlement agreement from August 2019. We have enlisted Melchert Law who have now sent GuideOne a letter on our behalf.

LED Lighting (replacing the existing fixtures) was completed in February. Although, at this time we are not able to realize the benefits of doing the upgrade because we haven't had to have the lights on at full capacity.

IT/ Technology - we've updated the Internet/ Firewall for Student protection/ will be hosting a Parent Internet Safety meeting when we can.

Can anyone say "COVID-19"? Our Teachers adapted quickly and efficiently for "Distance Learning". Our teachers want to be with the students but, have made adjustments. Realizing the extra care needed for these unique learning times. I just want to shout out at this time to Jeff, Michele, Nona, Julie, Wendy,

Brenda and Kelli for ALL of their hard work and dedication to their Students and families, their appreciation and dedication to the Lord and their service to CCLS - God has BLESSED us with a fantastic and caring staff - thank you so much!

If you are on Facebook and aren't friends with Christ Community Lutheran School - now is the time to friend them. You will see the "on-line" Chapels or Devotions created by the staff for families and we are part of that family and reap the reward of being a part of that family.

SBA Loan Applied for and Approved (4/8/2020) our plan is to continue to pay our staff and support staff.

Spring Event has been Cancelled/ Postponed until a new date can be established.

Bi-Annual Washington DC Trip has been cancelled.

Lawn Mowing - anyone interested in helping contact Amy Weege - summer schedule will need to come out soon due to the Spring/ Summer like season we are quickly approaching. Thank you for your support. Stay Healthy. Stay Safe. Stay Home.

Parish Board of Education Report by Lynette Dykhoff

Passion Walk/Easter Egg Hunt: Donated toys/prizes will be used next year. The donated candy will be used at VBS or donated to the food shelf

Sunday School offerings for the second half of the year are being sent to Lutherans in Africa. The amount will be provided at a later date.

VBS is scheduled for July 26-31. Materials were ordered in January and planning has begun. We are seeking volunteers for various roles.

We are purchasing crosses for the Confirmands.

Trustees Report by Travis Schauer: Spring is upon us and with it comes an abundance of work at church. Some of the items we will be addressing are:

Landscaping cleanup. Huge thanks go to Ron Schmidt who will be taking care of trimming shrubs and Jeff Lueck who will be doing the lawn mowing this summer.

Scheduling re-shingling from last year's hailstorm.

Repainting outside trim around the windows.

Installing a new water fountain outside the narthex bathrooms.

We would also like to thank Sharon Roy for taking care of the window planters outside the Fireside Room and Narthex for the last few years. She is retiring from this position and so we need someone new to take over this responsibility of planting flowers and watering as needed. If anyone would like to volunteer, please reach out to Travis Schauer.

Parish Planning & Finance Report by Glory Kohls: We have completed all but two checkbook reviews. Once the COVID-19 is over we will finish them. We would like to say Thank You to all who turned in their information needed to do the reviews. A special Thank You to Dustin Schaust for taking lead, and Sue Hoese for her help. Your hard work and time are greatly appreciated.

The Easter Campaign was cancelled due to COVID-19. We are discussing a Give Thanks campaign to celebrate and can worship together again. Funds for this campaign will be used to catch up with unpaid bills and then used for needed upgrades in the church.

We are currently behind in CCLS payments.

Head Tellers Report by Susan Kohls: St. Paul's has applied for the Federal CARES Act program to help with our payroll expenses during this C19 lockdown. We have been approved for the SBA loan, which will be used for payroll.

The Congregation Statistics Report was completed and submitted to the LCMS for 2019. Thank you to Judy Hoogland for your help!

Our financial software QuickBooks will be updated on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## ORDER OF SERVICE for 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 26, 2020

**HYMN:** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing" (LSB #475)

1. Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing! Now is the triumph of our King! To all the world glad news we bring; Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2. The Lord of life is ris'n this day; Bring flow'rs of song to strew His way; Let all the world rejoice and say; Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
3. Praise we in songs of victory That love, that life which cannot die, And sing with hearts uplifted high; Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
4. Your name we bless, O risen Lord, And sing today with one accord The life laid down, the life restored; Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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## INVOCATION

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

**14**But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: **36**Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” **37**Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” **38**And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39**For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” **40**And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” **41**So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

EPISTLE READING: 1 Peter 1:17-25

**17**And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, **18**knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, **19**but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. **20**He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you **21**who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. **22**Having purified your souls by your obedience to the

truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, **23**since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; **24**for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, **25**but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 24:13-35

**13**That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, **14**and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. **15**While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. **16**But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. **17**And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. **18**Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” **19**And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, **20**and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. **21**But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. **22**Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, **23**and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. **24**Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” **25**And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! **26**Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” **27**And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. **28**So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, **29**but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. **30**When he was at

table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. **31**And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. **32**They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" **33**And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, **34**saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" **35**Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**HYMN:** "Abide With Me" (LSB #878)

1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens;  
Lord, with me abide. When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

2 I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour; What but Thy grace  
can foil the tempter's pow'r? Who like Thyself my guide and stay  
can be? Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless; Ills have no weight  
and tears no bitterness. Where is death's sting? Where, grave,  
thy victory? I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes; Shine through  
the gloom, and point me to the skies. Heav'n's morning breaks,  
and earth's vain shadows flee; In life, in death, O Lord, abide  
with me.

**SERMON:** Luke 24:13-35 "**Open Our Eyes**"

**CONFESSION OF FAITH:** Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He Descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

BENEDICTION

**HYMN:** "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!" (LSB #463)

1. Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia! Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia! Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia! At the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!
2. For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia! Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia! Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia! Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!
3. Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia! God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia! When contending death and life. Alleluia! Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!
4. Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia! All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia! Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia! Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

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