

E-Letter Thursday, May 7, 2020

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

"EXTENDING CHRIST'S LOVE TO YOU"

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Romans 12:2 (ESV)

For the next two weeks, we will continue to have pre-recorded worship services available. This is because of the extension of the lock down by Governor Walz until May 18th. A new date has not been set up yet for Confirmation. It has been postponed.

Pastor Gerald Schwanke has recorded the worship service for May 3rd The Fourth Sunday after Easter (Psalm 23, Acts 2:42-47, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10). The Order of Service was included at the end of May 1st e-letter. The video can be viewed by going to this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEYbCODJmLI>

Pastor Andrix has recorded the worship for Sunday, May 10th The Fifth Sunday after Easter (Acts 6:1-98, 7:2a, 51-60; Psalm 146; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14). The Order of Service is included at the end of this e-letter. The video can be viewed by going to this link:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=donandrix. You may also go to Facebook/St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

For video and/or audio on-line worship go to the church website at 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 to the video that is on Facebook by scrolling down to the bottom of the home page and clicking on the FB icon.

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. For your convenience, you can now go to St Paul's website and use the Donate Now button!

BARNABAS MEAL will be served today Thursday May 7th as take out and curbside service only! Start time is 5:30. Please continue to use social distancing and they will bring your meal out to you. You do not need to even get out of your vehicle. If you can help with cooking or serving, please contact Steve Neddermeyer at 612.308.5626 or the church office at 952.955.1498.

LWML: The LWML will not meet in May. We will have our next meeting June 18, at 6:45 pm. We will not have a June outing, but a work night to make diapers. You can drop off t shirts at church till June 18 to be used for diapers. Call or email Karen Bloomdahl if you have any questions at 952.955.2167 or quilterkaren4@gmail.com.

Please let the church office know if you plan on resuming your meetings and/or activities that it can be put on the calendar and in the Newsletter. It's vital to keep informed the members of your ministry as well as others that may be interested in joining your group. These are uncertain times and you may not plan to gather in May yet but when you do, please let the office know.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT date this year has been moved from Tuesday, August 4th to Tuesday, October 6th. Mark your calendars for this great community event hosted by St. Paul's Barnabas and Outreach Ministries.

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 important prayer ministry is for you to use!

CALLING ALL SEWING MEMBERS

When we return to Worship, we will have face masks available to whomever comes to worship if they want one. Thank you so much for all of those who have been sewing face masks and dropping them off at the office. We have a variety of styles and sizes. This is very much appreciated. If you can further help with the sewing of these face masks, please contact the church office at 952.955.1498.

Please call a fellow member especially if you suspect they have no email. Help each other to stay connected and informed. Have them call the church office to get on the mailing list.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CONTACT INFORMATION:

Church Phone: 952-955-1498

E-mail - skohls@stpaulswatertown.org

Website - 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

ORDER OF SERVICE

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 10, 2020

HYMN: "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen" (LSB #474)

1. Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light! Splendor, the Lamb, Heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight! Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!
5. City of God, Easter forever, Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb, River of life, Saints and archangels, Sing with creation

to God the I AM! Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!

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INVOCATION

CONFESSION OF SINS:

- P. Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your boundless mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C. O MOST MERCIFUL GOD, WHO HAS GIVEN YOUR ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON TO DIE FOR US, HAVE MERCY UPON US AND FOR HIS SAKE GRANT US FORGIVENESS OF ALL OUR SINS; AND BY YOUR HOLY SPIRIT INCREASE IN US TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF YOU AND OF YOUR WILL AND TRUE OBEDIENCE TO YOUR WORD, TO THE END THAT BY YOUR GRACE WE MAY COME TO EVERLASTING LIFE; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD. AMEN.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

FIRST READING: Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a,51-60

1In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. **2**So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. **3**Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them **4**and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." **5**This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also, Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. **6**They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. **7**So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. **8**Now Stephen,

a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. **9**Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen. **2**To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Harran. **51**"You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! **52**Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— **53**you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it." **54**When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. **55**But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. **56**"Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." **57**At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, **58**dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. **59**While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." **60**Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

EPISTLE: 1 Peter 2:2-10

2Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, **3**now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. **4**As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— **5**you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6**For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." **7**Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," **8**and, "A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They

stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. **9**But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **10**Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

1"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. **2**My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? **3**And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. **4**You know the way to the place where I am going." **5**Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" **6**Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **7**If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." **8**Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." **9**Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? **10**Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. **11**Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. **12**Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. **13**And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14**You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

SONG: "We Are The Church"

Refrain: I am the Church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus All around the world! Yes, 1. The church is not a building, The church is not a steeple, The church is not a resting place, The church is a people! (Refrain)

2. We're many kinds of people, With many kinds of faces, All colors, and all ages, too, From all things and places. (Refrain)
3. And when the people gather There's singing and there's praying, There's laughing and there's crying sometimes, All of it saying: (Refrain)
4. At Pentecost some people Received the Holy Spirit And told the GoodNews thru the world to All who would hear it. (Refrain)
5. I count if I am ninety Or mine or just a baby; There's one thing I am sure about and I don't mean maybe. (Refrain)

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SERMON: **"The Church"** 1 Peter 2:2-10

CONFESSION OF FAITH: *(The Apostle's 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: "Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest" *(LSB #498)*

1. Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest, And make our hearts Your place of rest; Come with your grace and heav'nly aid, And fill the hearts which You have made.
2. To You, the counselor, we cry, To You, the gift of God Most High; The fount of life, the fire of love, The soul's anointing from above.
6. Teach us to know the Father, Son, And You, from both, as Three in One That we Your name may ever bless And in our lives the truth confess.

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