

E-Letter Wednesday, May 13, 2020  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

## "EXTENDING CHRIST'S LOVE TO YOU"

Greetings in Christ!

"For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine."

Romans 1:12-13

For Paul and the Christians of Rome letters were good for an exchange of information, but they were hoping for more. And because of that, it seems to me that the above words from the Apostle Paul are quite appropriate in the midst of our current COVID-19 pandemic. Technology allows for us to still meet, but there is a difference in watching a screen and being able to truly share an experience.

The result is that we are longing for that fellowship that comes when we worship and study God's Word together. We are longing to grow in faith and knowledge of our Lord that comes from sharing in those activities that are central in the life of each Christian. We are longing to greet each other in the name of the Lord. We are longing to partake of the Lord's Supper.

Yet whatever our longing, it is good to know that we are still the church. We are still loved by our good and gracious God. We are still empowered by the Holy Spirit. We are still redeemed by the Blood of Jesus Christ. And we are still encouraged to live out God's love in all that we say, think, and do with all those whom we encounter: our families, our friends, our neighbors, and even strangers behind a mask.

In His Service, Pastor George

For the next week, 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 18<sup>th</sup>. A new date has not been set up yet for Confirmation.

Pastor Andrix has recorded the worship for Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 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 was

included at the end of the May 7<sup>th</sup> e-letter. The video can be viewed by going to this link: [https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=donandrix](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=donandrix). You may also go to Facebook/St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Pastor Gerald Schwanke will record the worship service for May 17<sup>th</sup> The Sixth Sunday after Easter (Acts 17:16-31; Psalm 146; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21) The Order of Service is included at the end of May 14<sup>th</sup> e-letter. The video link will also be available on May 14<sup>th</sup> e-letter.

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 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!

**THRIVENT:** Members of Thrivent have the option to designate their Thrivent Choice Dollars to either St. Paul's Lutheran Church or Christ Community Lutheran School. This is a benefit of being a member and is available to members to use as you'd like. You will need to go on-line to allocate your Choice Dollars.

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. Keep the members informed 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 yet but when you do, please let the office know.

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

LUTHERAN WOMENS MISSIONARY LEGUE: 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](mailto:quilterkaren4@gmail.com).

MAYER LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL: At this time, a traditional graduation ceremony is planned for the class of 2020 on Saturday, June 27 at 10:00 AM, with Saturday, July 25 at 10:00 AM serving as the back-up date.

Prom has been rescheduled for Friday, July 10. The event will begin with the Grand March at 6:30 PM.

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. 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.

WELCOME PASTOR GEORGE MORRIS! We are so blessed to have a new Pastor. In these crazy times, when we are so regulated, we can't all come together to welcome him. Yet you may send him cards, photos, gift cards, gifts, or whatever you would like to welcome him. Send them to the church office at P O Box 697 Watertown, MN 55388. Please understand that you

do not have to, just if you would like to especially if you are choosing not to leave your home yet. Installation is still tentatively set for 2:00 pm on May 17<sup>th</sup>. We will know more details about that after the Council Meeting on Thursday evening.

#### 2020 MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM:

The annual Memorial Day Program presented by Watertown American Legion Post 121 and normally held at the Performing Arts Center at the Watertown-Mayer High School will not be held this year because of the Coronavirus disease. However, a Legion honor/color guard will continue to memorialize deceased veterans at each of the four Watertown cemeteries with a rifle salute and taps. There will be a very short program. Legion members will also mark known veteran graves with individual United States flags.

The schedule for the ceremony at the cemeteries is:

9:00 Watertown Public Cemetery

9:45 Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Cemetery

10:30 Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery

11:15 St Peter Lutheran Church Cemetery

Safe distancing will be followed by the Legion and they ask the public in attendance to do the same. You can also show your support on Memorial Day by flying the United States flag at your home or business.

God bless America and God bless our deceased veterans.

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:

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Pastor Rev. George Morris 952.955.1498

Pastor's email – [pastorgeorgemorris@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorgeorgemorris@yahoo.com)

Preaching Assistant: Rev. Gerald Schwanke - 1-320-282-9838