

E-Letter Friday, May 15, 2020



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

“EXTENDING CHRIST’S LOVE TO YOU”

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, rejoice!” Philippians 4:4 (ESV)

The installation of Rev. George W Morris II as pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church will take place this Sunday, May 17th at 2:00pm. Under the current Executive Orders of Governor Walz, the number of participants and attendees at the Service of Installation is extremely limited. Because of those limitations, and for good and proper order, the service will be conducted with appropriate District, Circuit, and Congregational leaders present. The service will also be recorded for the church website as well as broadcast through Facebook Live on the St. Paul's Lutheran Church Facebook page. And, most importantly, a “Celebration Sunday” will be scheduled in the near future to remember the promises spoken at installation and share the joy of the day with all the members of St. Paul's, as soon as the State of Minnesota Pandemic guidelines and Governor Walz's Executive Orders allow.

😊 The Church Council felt it is important that we do try to show some sort of support (ok, maybe excitement) welcoming him. There will be a parade of cars after the service. Since it is live streamed on Face Book, you can listen at home then head up to church to be there for the “outdoor reception” – this is just to show our appreciation and support (while staying in your cars – honking, waving, hanging out your moon roof – showing your Joyful Response from your Car 😊). The service begins at 2:00 pm and would be approximately an hour.

The Church Council, Board of Elders, and Pastor have been discussing ways to resume worship services in a way that meets the current State of Minnesota Pandemic guidelines and Governor Walz's Executive Orders. The full details will be coming out next week, but on Sunday, May 24th we are planning to have our first “Drive-In” style worship service. At the “Drive-In” service you will drive to our worship location, park as directed, tune your radio to the indicated FM frequency, and participate in worship. To be within all appropriate guidelines you will need to remain in your vehicle for the entirety of the service. Look for more details in the near future!

Pastor Gerald Schwanke recorded the worship service for May 17th The Sixth Sunday after Easter (Acts 17:16-31; Psalm 146; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21) The Order of Service was included at the end of Thursday, May 14 e-letter. You may view it on Facebook and on this link: <https://youtu.be/Zre-HaYuiNM>

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.

ST. PAUL'S WEBSITE: Please take the time to register and check out St. Paul's website. If you had registered on the old site, you would need to change your password as things have changed. If you have not registered, you will need to do that as then you will have access to much more information. Please be patient with the new site as we not only work out the bugs but learn to navigate the many new options the site contains. Our administrator of the new site is Amanda Schaust. For questions or help you may email her at amanda.schaust@gmail.com

The good news is that if you are a Bible Study leader, Officer, or Ministry Leader, you may add articles/information to your section to keep everyone informed. Example of this is under the tab "Resources" click on "Newsletters". The church office is now able to add the Newsletters/e-letters to the website for all to view. Another example is under the tab "Ministries" click on "Small Groups" then the Small Group Bible Study Leaders would add/edit information about their Bible Studies. You will first need to contact Amanda to establish your access. Please email her at the above address.

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

WELCOME PASTOR GEORGE MORRIS! We are so blessed to have a new Pastor. In these crazy times, when we are so regulated and cannot meet in person, 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.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CONTACT INFORMATION:

Church Phone: 952-955-1498

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Website - www.stpaulswatertown.org

Pastor Rev. George Morris 952.955.1498

Visitation Pastor: Rev. Tom Colgrove 763.614.9622

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

INSTALLATION ORDER OF SERVICE on next pages...

**The Service of Installation:
Rev. George W. Morris II
Pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Watertown, Minnesota**

**Sunday, May 17th, 2020
2:00 p.m.**

Processional Hymn: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (LSB 790)

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation! Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near, Joining in glad adoration!

2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining. Have you not seen All that is needful has been Sent by His gracious ordaining?

3 Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you, Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you. What need or grief Ever has failed of relief? Wings of His mercy did shade you.

4 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you; Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you. Ponder anew What the Almighty can do As with His love He befriends you.

5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in us adore him! All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him! Let the Amen Sound from His people again; Gladly forever adore him!

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Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

Confession and Absolution

P: Beloved in the Lord. Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,

C: and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

C: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserve your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Psalm of Praise

Psalm 145 (NIV)

P: I will exalt You, my God the King; I will praise Your name forever and ever.

C: Every day I will praise You and extol Your name forever and ever.

P: Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise.

C: His greatness no one can fathom.

P: One generation will commend Your works to another; they will tell of Your mighty acts.

C: They will speak of the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and I will meditate on Your wonderful works.

P: The Lord is gracious and compassionate,

C: slow to anger and rich in love.

P: The Lord is good to all.

C: He has compassion on all He has made.

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: I will exalt You, my God the King; I will praise Your name forever and ever.

C: Every day I will praise You and extol Your name forever and ever.

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 52:7-10 (NIV)

(The joy of serving in the house of the Lord)

7How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" **8**Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the Lord returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. **9**Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. **10**The Lord will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

Epistle Lesson

Romans 10:14-17 (NIV)

(Be faithful in preaching the true Word of God)

14How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? **15**And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" **16**But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" **17**Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ

Gospel Lesson

John 20:19-23 (NIV)

(May God send each of us forth with His Holy Spirit)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter:

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

19On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" **20**After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. **21**Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." **22**And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. **23**If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Profession 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.

Sermon Hymn “O Holy Spirit, Enter In” (LSB 913)

1 O Holy Spirit, enter in, And in our hearts Your work begin, Your dwelling place now make us. Sun of the soul, O Light divine, Around and in us brightly shine, To joy and gladness wake us That we may be Truly living, To You giving Prayer unceasing And in love be still increasing.

2 Give to Your Word impressive pow'r, That in our hearts from this good hour As fire it may be glowing, That in true Christian unity We faithful witnesses may be, Your glory ever showing. Hear us, cheer us By Your teaching; Let our preaching And our labor Praise You, Lord, and serve our neighbor.

3 O mighty Rock, O Source of Life, Let Your dear Word, in doubt and strife, In us be strongly burning That we be faithful unto death And live in love and holy faith, From You true wisdom learning. Your grace and peace On us shower; By Your power Christ confessing, Let us see our Savior's blessing.

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Sermon—

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, President, Minnesota South District

The Certification of Divine Call

P: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, through the Church's usual order, the Reverend George W. Morris II has been called by the Lord of the church to be Pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Watertown, MN.

Salutation and Collect

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Merciful God, we humbly implore you to cast the bright beams of Your light upon Your Church that we, being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, may walk in the light of Your truth and finally attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Charges to the Pastor Elect

Installation of Pastor George W. Morris II

Responsive Prayer for the Ministry

P: Let us pray. For the joy of this day, for the joy of eternal life in Christ, our Lord, for the joy of service together as the people of Your new covenant, O God.

C: Lord, we thank You.

P: For the spiritual gifts that You give to Your holy Church, and for the love that uses them in serving the common good.

C: Lord, we thank You.

P: For the pastoral ministry that You give to Your Church, and for men whom You qualify for Your service.

C: Lord, we thank You.

P: For pure doctrine and a life worthy of our calling on the cross and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

C: Lord, we thank You.

P: For growth in Your Word, for thankful appreciation of the sacraments, and the life-giving forgiveness and eternal life they bring to us.

C: Lord, we thank You.

P: For the blessings of being united to Christ Jesus through the Holy Spirit in this congregation.

C: Lord, we thank You. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you, The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Recessional Hymn "Lift High the Cross" (LSB 837)

(Refrain) Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim Till all the world adore His sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod, Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. [Refrain]

2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign, The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. [Refrain]

3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. [Refrain]

4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. [Refrain]

5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. [Refrain]

6 So shall our song of triumph ever be; Praise to the Crucified for victory! [Refrain]

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