
Good News of St. Paul

St. Paul Lutheran Web Site: www.stpaulcastlerock.org

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Sept-Oct 2020

PASTOR'S PAGE

A House of Prayer for All

Isaiah 56:7 "these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples".



Feeling Exiled? Chapter 56 of Isaiah is thought to have been written to the Southern tribe of Judah during their exile to Babylon. The words of the prophet were prophetic words of encouragement about God's future hope for "all" people/nations. Jesus, himself repeats this hope and affirms our call to pray.

In this time of separation from what was once called "normal," many are tormented and torn, worried and fearful, starved for social contact and have felt as if their joy has been taken. Indeed, this has been a stressful time. What was taken for granted just a short time ago and thought of as always being available has become only a memory. Life has been turned upside down and crazy seems to be redefined daily by a new greater crazy.

The distractions and opportunities to take our eyes off Jesus are many. We have been attacked by an unseen enemy (virus) and the enemy of our souls (Satan) would like to use this time of upheaval as a time to focus our attention on things that are temporary and don't last.

But God, is still in charge, But God still has the victory, But God is still almighty... and the enemy has been defeated and you are (YOU are) victorious in Christ!

One thing that can't be taken away from us is the opportunity and power of prayer. God is available and you are the instruments of God's will. You are part of and a participant in God's holy house. You have received the Holy Spirit and God uses you for his mighty work.

I truly believe that God is going to reveal Godself in new and powerful ways. The gifts of the Holy Spirit will manifest in God's children in new and miraculous ways. People of every nation will be drawn... no, stream to God through the Spirit. People will turn from self-pleasing to God pleasing. Nations will turn from looking to solely their own interest to promoting justice for all. And the people of all nations will recognize the value and meaning of life is found in Jesus!

The God of all of creation and of all peoples will reveal himself. People will know God themselves, for themselves. They will know that they are accepted and loved by the One who is love. They will know GOD is not a God who is far off, but God is near. You, child of God, are called to pray. It is through your prayers that God has chosen to act and move and reveal and perform and do. God moves through the prayers of God's people, through your prayers. (Continued on Page 2)

(Pastor's Page continued)

So when distractions occur that would pull you from spending time praying, know prayer is your highest call. When the enemy raises his ugly head, know the battle has been won and you are victorious in God. When separation and loneliness attack, know that nothing can separate you from God's love and presence. When you become fearful of what is to come, know that you are God's child and God has a plan.

In this time of distractions, craziness and separation. I employ you to seek God in prayer, lift up others in prayer, invite the Spirit to give you the words, unction, and utterances needed to be who you were created to be.

God is busy working, though you may not see it now, God is not slow to respond. You, as a follower of Jesus, are called to be used as God's people of prayer. Pray with me that we will be a house of prayer for all people. Pray with me that we will see God miracles manifest. Pray with me that we see God revealed in our time and in our lives. Pray with me that we see God glorified.

Pastor Norm



New Trends In Health

Here's a few new trends for our wellness that I recently read in my UnitedHealthcare newsletter:

1. Essential Oils for improving sleep. These oils are highly concentrated from plants and can be used for many purposes. They have the potential to ease anxiety and help with sleep. I use lavender!
2. Meditation has been around for ages and can create a sense of calmness.
3. House plants that can improve our indoor air. Try a jade or a Bonnie spider plant!
4. And most importantly everyone needs a flu vaccine! It's really not a new trend!

To your health, K.C. Babcock, R.N.

Monthly Financial Report

July: \$ 13,220.00
August: \$ 8,575.00 (as of 8/23)

Thank you for your continued faithfulness with your tithes, especially during these times when we aren't meeting face to face in the church building.



Dear Family of St. Paul,

How difficult it is to be away from you at this time. When we really could use fellowship together the most, we have been sent home for safety's sake.

I recently saw an image in my mind of Jesus walking with clouds above Him and waves in front of Him. I saw it 3 times and decided to paint it. Looking at Jesus and keeping my eyes on Him brings me such peace and hope. The painting is displayed in the sign holder on our church lawn for anyone who would like to see it. May God give you His abundant love and peace.

Take care dear ones,
Diana Rahn



Remembering Members & Friends

Please remember these people with your prayers, phone calls, or cards:

All God's people including: John Ragsdale, Pr. Brian Pederson, Grace Kennedy, Laurie Ross-Aristide, Vineta Thomsen, Mary Brown, Michael Berndt, Bruce Schumacher, Kelsey Buchanan, Jessica Learned, Stephanie Petkovich, Gayle Agren, Mary Mage, Don Miller, Darlene Jackson, Eric Smith, Jean Jones, Angie Manfreddi, Angie Boudier, Crystal Hummel, Beth Hinesley, Bob Bruner, Al Black

All Caregivers and Care receivers: Joyce LeMonds, Vi Benham, Granville Oswalt; **Those serving in the Armed Forces:** Sam Gallow, Matthew Cogburn, Eddie Oswalt

Thank You To:



- Clarence and Roxanne Knutson, Elena and Koen Ross, and Neal and Shirley Johnson for providing music for the online Sunday morning services.
- Clarence Knutson for coordinating the Kids Meal Program and making it happen. (see separate article)
- Jim Johnston for streaming the Sunday services, as well as trouble shooting issues along the way.
- Roxanne Knutson for coordinating the Kids Clothes Closet held Friday, Aug. 21st, and everyone who helped make it possible. (see separate article)
- Everyone who has diligently been supportive financially during this time of hiatus.
- Everyone of you for your patience while we find our 'new normal'.



St. Paul Website

To stay tuned in to what is current at St. Paul, simply sign in to the website: stpaulcastlerock.org

It will open to a series of blogs written by various members. To see the full article, click on the title and it will open for you to read. If you would like to receive notifications each time a new blog is posted, scroll all the way down to the bottom of the page and you will see an option to 'Follow Blog via E-mail' in the lower left corner. Type in your e-mail, click 'Follow' and you're all set.

Other options are listed on the very top of the web page itself. Although these are limited right now, with the building closed to all regular activities, you can catch a missed Sunday service (or re-watch a favorite), by clicking on Sermons/Daily Prayers on the top left and then choose the date you want. Past newsletters are also available.



Tithing

Thank you for your continued financial support during these past months while we aren't meeting weekly. Mailing works best - PO Box 847, Castle Rock, WA 98611.

The council has approved an online giving program called Tithe.ly. This would enable you to give with a push of a button from the church website - by using credit, debit, or setting up automatic withdrawal from your bank account. Of course this is totally optional, but a convenient and easy option you may want to consider.

More information coming so stay tuned!



Kids Clothes Closet 2020

Kids Clothes Closet give-away was held August 21 with many adaptations for Covid virus safety. Outside under the awning, parents of 92 students were given a package of underwear and socks, and gifts cards for jeans and shoes for each child. They also had the option of going into the fellowship hall to look through girls and boys tops. Giving the parents appointed times kept the numbers down to no more than 4 or 5 at a time. Masks were required, temperatures taken, and lots of hand sanitizer used.

Thank you to the following who bravely came out in this pandemic (and the rain) to serve: KC Babcock, Sharon Blankenship, Pat Dick, Shirley Johnson, Dayne Johnston, Linda Solberg and Bob Ross. Special thanks to Pat for sewing up cloth masks in case someone didn't have one.

Thank you to those behind the scenes: Bob Ross and his crew, Nathan, Koen, Ben, Easton, and Zadun Ross, for setting up tables and hauling clothes upstairs as well as putting them away. Anita Gallow for organizing the folding and laying out of the clothes with help from Harriet Shero, Becky Dahlman, Phyllis Ogden, and Karen Metzler.

Many thanks to those with year-round jobs: Tiffany Seidl for sorting all the used clothing and Dayne Johnston for sending out donation requests and thank you notes.

Last, but not least, thank you to all who have given so generously toward this worthwhile cause.

Kids Clothes Closet is always in need of gently used children's clothing.

Roxanne Knutson, KCC treasurer



Kids Clothes Closet



Kids Meals

What a blessing to be God's hands during this pandemic. To God be the glory!

Kid's Meals lunches were provided every weekday at 12 noon from June 22nd to Aug 19th.

Seven churches participated for the 8 and ½ weeks of meals: St. Mary's Catholic, Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints, Castle Rock Christian, Apostolic Lutheran, Castle Rock Baptist, Castle Rock Methodist, and St. Paul Lutheran. A thank you to weekly leaders from other churches: Amy Bobst (St. Mary's), Hank Morkert (LDS), Elaine Campbell (C.R. Christian), Jessica Lakey (Apostolic Lutheran), Janet Prince (C.R. Baptist), Barbara Rutherford (C.R. Methodist).

Our attendance for meals was almost double from last year, averaging 57 meals a day. A total of 2,436 meals were given out. Because of the CoVid-19 pandemic, all meals were handed out as sack lunches on the south side of the fellowship hall/kitchen. St. Paul made arrangements with Dairy Fresh Farms for individual milk cartons for the meals; we also supplied the lunch sacks, portion cups, zip-loc bags, sandwich clam shells, and many gallons of ranch dressing for each week. Each church leader planned and purchased food for their given week. Thank you.

Kid's Meals volunteer sous-chefs for the three weeks St. Paul served: Roxanne Knutson, Sharon Blankenship, Carol Oswalt, Linda Solberg, Leann Beall, Jacki Whittaker, David Whittaker, Al Black, Pastor Norm Arnold, Janet Eiden. And a special thank you to K.C. Babcock for heading up the third week (August 10 – 14) when Clarence was not available.

Clarence Knutson, Kid's Meals Coordinator



September

- 3 Tyler Adams
- 4 Kevin Rahn
- 6 Pr. Sue Wanwig
- 7 Joseph Hummel
- 10 Cody Lux
- 11 K.C. Babcock
Austin Ogden
- 12 William Schaafsma
- 14 Mikel Skreen
Cara Kittelson
- 15 Larissa Moore
- 17 Gretchen Schwinn
Easton Ashby
- 18 Darcy Davidson
- 19 Geri Skreen
Darren Ashby
Helga Prim
- 21 Diana Rahn
- 25 Dayne Johnston
- 28 Steve Foster
- 29 Pr Carol Kyllingstad

October

- 3 Shirley Cooper
- 4 Dave Foster
Anita Gallow
- 6 Tim Ogden
- 7 Vicki Masten
- 8 Garrett Ashby
Ron Blankenship
- 10 Dan Shero
- 13 Earl Small
Matt Ray
- 16 Lori Jacques
Molly Franklin
- 17 Becky Dahlman
Pr. Holger Holtz
Emma Agren
- 18 David Wood
- 19 Julie Davidson
- 21 Mali Skreen
Nancy Vandehey
- 22 Hadley Bryan
- 24 Peggy Droz
Ken Solberg
Blake Davie
- 26 Reed Ness
Courtney Simpson
Sarah Maple
- 27 Brian Masten
Mona Bryant
- 28 Dave Small
- 30 Brent Davie
- 31 Sarah Bryan



September

- 6 Brad & Stephanie Ness
- 8 Tom & Anna Cunningham - 58 years
- 9 Ed & Lorraine Berndt - 69 years
- 10 Al Black & Betty Light
Bill & Marlene White - 65 years
Jerod & Nancy Vandehey - 20 years
- 20 Robert & Sandi Nolden
- 30 Steve & K.C. Babcock



October

- 2 Bill & Renee Nikolaus
- 5 Penny & Larry Hensley
- 7 Nate & Josie Swim
- 12 George & Phyllis Ogden
- 15 Janet & Mark Eiden - 15 years
- 17 Marvin & Marsha Gallow
- 20 Kevin & Diana Rahn
- 24 Jim & Dayne Johnston - 50 years



Beth Coleman, former member of St. Paul passed away July 3, 2020.

Blessed Be Her Memory



Blood

There will be no Blood Drive held at St. Paul, until further notice. Contact the local Red Cross in Longview or Bloodworks in

Vancouver, if you wish to donate. Bloodworks is offering a chance to win an Apple iPad if you donate by 8-31-20. All donors get tested for Covid-19 antibodies! Schedule your appointment at 1-800-7888

St. Paul Lutheran
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Castle Rock WA 98611

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #6
Castle Rock, WA
98611

Limited building use by
advance arrangement.
Health/Safety Procedures
are Required

The office can still be
reached at 360-274-6604.
(Please leave a message and
we will return your call as
soon as possible)

Check us out on Facebook!
Website:
stpaulcastlerock.org

***“We are one body in Christ, united in baptism,
renewed through worship and prayer, and sent by God to serve.”***

Just Be — and Be Still

Various versions of the following sentiment are posted online: “I am a human being, not a human doing. It’s okay to just be sometimes.” Many of us get anxious if we think we’re not doing enough, but peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh insists it’s not a waste of time to just be: “To be alive, to be peaceful, to be joyful, to be loving ... is what the world needs most.”

During the pandemic, when people were urged to stay home to slow the virus’ spread, we had to think hard about how to continue being the church while limited in what we could go out and “do.” Yet church leaders reminded us that we were actually loving our neighbors by staying home — by being less active.



It’s sometimes okay — ideal, even — to just be. In quieting our bodies, minds and hearts, we may find ourselves more often in prayer, more aware of God’s presence and more nourished for when the time is right to again take up more active forms of ministry, peacemaking and love. “In quietness and trust is your strength” (Isaiah 30:15, NIV).

—Heidi Mann
(reprinted from www.NewsletterNewsletter.com)