

The Messenger

St. Paul Lutheran Church
 4475 Atlanta Highway . Montgomery , AL 36109
 334.272.6214 stpauloffice@stpaulmontgomery.org
 www.stpaulmontgomery.org



Boarts



Buckley



Johnson



Fitzjarrald



Kirklin

IT'S TIME FOR CHANGE

New jobs and new assignments have taken these families from our midst. We know they will be a blessing at their new church home just as they have been a blessing to St. Paul. We wish each of you God's blessings in the future.

We'll miss each of you!

Dear Members of St. Paul,

The one important question that you are probably asking yourself is "When are we ever going to return to worship at church?" I hear you! I understand your frustration! I also pray for your understanding and patience. As we stated in last month's newsletter, the Elders, Board members, and Pastor Steve and I are waiting for the Covid-19 numbers to stabilize before the church will be open for worship.

We are not alone in our decision. Some churches have returned to in-house worship, but many churches like Frazier and First Baptist are live streaming only. Montgomery continues to be a **hot-spot** for the virus, and Covid-19 numbers continue to rise daily.

My prayer is that the Covid-19 numbers will begin to dwindle, and that we can begin to worship together later next month.

Continue to pray for each other during this unprecedented time and be safe.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Elam

GOD, WHERE ARE YOU?

Read Psalm 69:7-18

Is God missing in action? It sure feels like that sometimes—especially during a global pandemic, amid nationwide upheaval over far-too-commonplace injustice, or when our world feels upside down due to a personal crisis. The writer of this psalm is terribly upset about what's happening in life, since it feels like God has checked out and left them all alone. But as a person of faith, the psalmist directs the complaint about what's happening not to just anybody who'll listen, but right to God. Using a lament, as in Ps 69:7-18, gives us permission to let go of the outcome and let God act.

Prayer

Help us, Lord, to bring our concerns to you and to leave them there, trusting you to do what's right. Amen.



LCMS STATEMENT ON THE DEATH OF GEORGE FLOYD AND THE ENSUING RIOTS

Discriminatory treatment of human beings on the basis of race is irrational evil and results in evil. It is folly, which can produce only anger and hatred. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” America’s original sin of legal racism, the denial of human rights based on race, has reaped the whirlwind. God’s Word rejects racism. “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). “No one is righteous, no, not one” (Romans 3:10). “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). All are equally created by God. All are equally accountable to God. The sins of all are equally atoned for by Christ. All are equally precious to God. Racial animosity is the result of sin and is sin in itself. Racism is not acceptable in the church. Jesus Himself bids us love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31) and did so precisely while rejecting racial preference (cf. Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25–37).

Unity in the church according to the Augsburg Confession is defined by Article VII: “For it is sufficient for the true unity of the Christian church that the Gospel be preached ... and that the sacraments be administered in accordance with the divine Word.” Christ and His gifts bring unity and equity in the church. Racial discrimination in or by the church is sin. Racial conflict in our nation calls every Christian to introspection. “It is time for judgment to begin at the household of God” (1 Peter 4:17). “Righteous indignation” without self-reflection and repentance is meaningless, or worse, hypocrisy. The one who grievously and unjustly took the sacred gift of life from George Floyd — resulting in a charge of 3rd-degree murder — will, ironically, be given the very thing he denied his victim, due process of the law. Justice must be meted out according to the law. Others may be charged.

We weep for George Floyd, for his family and loved ones because he was robbed of life. We weep for our nation. We weep for those across our nation who believe their only recourse is destruction. We weep for police officers everywhere, who carry out their honorable vocations with courage and goodwill but find their task infinitely more challenging and dangerous in the wake of the sad events in Minneapolis. We pray for the safety of all and the welfare of those who have lost property and livelihood. We pray for the police who must stand against mayhem. We support the First Amendment rights of the peaceful protestors.

We deplore injustice. We deplore destruction, robbery and doing physical harm to others. That, too, is injustice. We plead to citizens and governments of this nation for communities beset by poverty, crime and injustice. We plead for rational and unifying policies that will end injustices and address social breakdown, lack of economic access, and other factors that fuel anger, hatred and dissension.

We shall pray, but we shall do even more. We shall follow the ancient mandate of the prophet of Yahweh: “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8).

And we shall proclaim Christ, “in season and out of season” (2 Timothy 4:2). “For one will scarcely die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:7–8).

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these, put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Colossians 3:12–17 ESV)

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



LCMS MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE

The church confesses to Christ, “You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68). The church is encouraged to “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ...” (Col. 3:16). Psalm 1 teaches us to meditate on God’s Word day and night. It is our great opportunity and joy to read and study God’s Word. One beneficial practice is to memorize the Scriptures and, in so doing, to meditate on it. [The LCMS invites everyone to join together memorizing a verse together each week.](#)

Week of June 15th

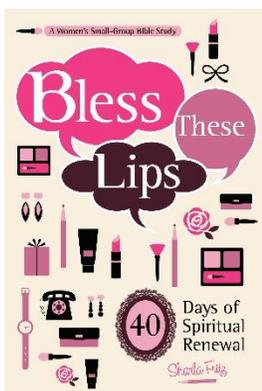
But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5

THE LUTHERAN COLLEGE SYSTEM – CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

The Concordia University System (CUS) is comprised of eight colleges and universities of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Located across the United States, the colleges and universities offer over 160 undergraduate and 50 graduate programs. While each institution is unique, all campuses approach learning from a Lutheran context. The common goal is to develop Christian leaders for the church, community and world.

Strongly committed to the Lutheran concept of vocation, synodical colleges and universities are liberal arts institutions which provide a Christ-centered spiritual and value-oriented environment for men and women who will be Christians in the church and in secular occupations.

There are over 35,000 students at campuses located in: Bronxville, NY; Ann Arbor, MI; River Forest, IL; Irvine, CA; Seward, NE; St. Paul, MN; Austin, TX; Mequon, WI.



WOMEN OF THE WORD BIBLE STUDY

Eleven women participated in the Bible study on June 11th. What a blessing to be able to get out, study God’s Word together and have a fellowship with others. We were able to ‘social distance’ yet still felt like a group.

The next study will be on Thursday, June 25th at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

In the new study we will gain an understanding about the power of our words. They can build up or tear down. They can affirm and teach or criticize and condemn. By God’s grace, a mouth makeover can improve our relationships and affect our attitude toward life.



LWML AWARDS MISSION GRANT

Dr. Dale A. Meyer, President of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, received a \$100,000 check for LWML Mission Grant #19, "Making Jesus Known in the United States Ethnic Communities, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri."

Tom Evans, Grant Writer at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, spoke about the grant funds saying, "These funds will help support the education costs of the highly devoted ethnic student/church workers enrolled in our Center of Hispanic Studies and Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology ministerial formation programs. Through their ongoing, dedicated service, these student/church workers truly are, in the words of our mission grant's title, "Making Jesus Known in U.S. Ethnic Communities."

Lutheran Women in Mission are urged to pray for Concordia Seminary, this ministry, and its participants, especially as summer classes resume on campus in July. [Read more about this grant and training programs here.](#)

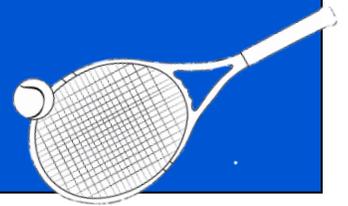
PRAYER REQUESTS

Cindy A., Steve T., John and Debbie O.,
Cynthia in Dallas, TX, Lloyd C.,
Derrick H., Gwen, and Mason and
Hilary's unborn child with heart

11TH ANNUAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT & SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER

Benefiting the Mission Work of Reality & Truth Ministries
www.tennisfortruth.com

July 3, 6:00 p.m.



Happy Anniversary

<i>Jerry & Sandy Huffstickler</i>	<i>June 20, 1987</i>	<i>John & Debbie Mikulka</i>	<i>July 1, 1978</i>
<i>John & Cynthia Weimer</i>	<i>June 23, 1973</i>	<i>Bunnie & Nancy Dunn</i>	<i>July 6, 1968</i>
<i>Steve & Ginger Richardson</i>	<i>June 28, 1986</i>	<i>Carl & Margaret Carlson</i>	<i>July 9, 1955</i>
<i>Bob & Audrey Cordes</i>	<i>June 29, 1963</i>	<i>Jon & Elizabeth Oswald</i>	<i>July 12, 2015</i>



Julia Bennett	6/17	Crowell Lisenby	6/25	Jack Dradzynski	7/2	Jay Sloop	7/5	Jonah Lueck	7/12
Steve Dradzynski	6/17	Aidan Smith	6/25	Kajuana Hill	7/4	Matthew Boarts	7/6		
Paula Mitchell	6/18	David Anderson	7/1	Audrey Cordes	7/5	Katie Floyd	7/11		

Please submit pictures/information for the newsletter by the 12th of each month to dhoward@knology.net.

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

To activate the prayer chain, contact Margaret Carlson at 334-567-0964 or the church office at 272-6214.