

The Messenger



THINGS TO CONSIDER DURING THESE STRESSFUL AND TRYING TIMES OF COVID-19 – by Chaplain Jon Smithley

Looking back over the last twelve months, many of us can say that the road of life has been long and difficult. COVID-19 has brought about considerable stresses, fears, frustrations, and challenges we had seldom thought of before March 2020.

The aim of this article (devotion) is to be “Pro-active” and not “re-active”, yet realizing that it is the Holy Spirit who calls us by the Gospel of Jesus, enlightens us with His gifts, sanctifies and keeps us in the one true faith! (Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed)

Therefore, walking with the Lord Jesus by grace through faith, let us remain cross-focused and Christ-centered remembering the words of 2 Timothy 1:7, “*For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.*”

7 Things to consider as the people of God:

1.) Seek to pray for each other (your spouse, children, grandchildren, extended family, friends, pastor/church family) ex: (rising early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus went out to a desolate place and prayed – St. Mark 1:35)

Also, we can pray for our Community and leaders (see 1 Timothy 2:1-2). Look at the blessings there in v.2.

Yes: PUSH! Pray Until Something Happens! (1 Thess 5:17 says, “*Pray without ceasing.*”) Yes, pray hardest when it is hardest to pray!

2.) Search after purpose and meaning together - that being Jesus and His Holy Word! (see Colossians 3:1-2, 15). Also, Colossians 3:16 tells us, “*Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.*” Why? Because Jesus Christ is our Life – see Col 3:4.

3.) Seek to love each other under every circumstance. This requires commitment, sacrifice and PUF - C {*Patience, Understanding, Forgiveness and Compassion*} – Ephesians 4:32

4.) Seek to support and encourage each other at every turn of life!

5.) Seek to be involved (together) serving others. Volunteer work! Yes, teach your children to volunteer and give back to our Community.

6.) Learn to Apologize and Forgive! (AF) - (see Eph 4:32 again)

(If I want my marriage and family to be successful, then I need to be a good forgiver!)

7.) Celebrate the Good Things in this Life: first and foremost - Jesus and His love and forgiveness, the salvation of our souls and bodies in Christ, the Sacraments! Then, celebrate the victories, the successes, the joys, the promotions, the birthdays and anniversaries, the birth of children and grandchildren.

It is good to “Enjoy living Life” - to create memories full of joy and laughter, because we know that Almighty God has all things under control and in His hands - including our lives!

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says it very well here:

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

---- “The stresses/worries/problems/difficulties of life can either drive us to the darkness of isolation or to the Community of Light: Jesus Christ and His Church!” - Toby Mac and wife, Amanda Mckeehan (Christian artist and singer)

St. Paul Lutheran Church, I close with these words:

“We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers.” 1 Thessalonians 1:2

LENTEN SERVICES

Ash Wednesday, February 17 7:00 p.m.
February 24 7:00 p.m.
March 3 7:00 p.m.
March 10 7:00 p.m.
March 17 7:00 p.m.
March 24 7:00 p.m.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday March 28 - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Maundy Thursday April 1 - 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday April 2 - 7:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday April 4 - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.



YOUR OLD EYEGASSES DONATION – IN THE WELCOME CENTER

What is Needed?

Adult-sized Glasses
Children-sized Glasses
Non-prescription Sunglasses

Why Are Donated Glasses Needed?

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that of the 153 million people worldwide who have poor vision, 138 million or 90% live in African, Asian or Latin American countries. This is because in many of these countries people cannot afford the cost of a simple pair of eyeglasses. Sadly, more than 4 million pairs of eyeglasses are discarded every year in the U.S.

What Would a Pair of Eyeglasses Cost in a Developing Country?

In developing countries, for a family of four who make \$4.00 a day, a pair of eyeglasses can be the equivalent of a year's salary. As a result, large segments of this population live with vision problems which adversely impact their productivity, employability and quality of life.

How Do Donated Glasses Help Others?

Donated eyeglasses can enable an adult to secure a job and support his or her family; a child to succeed in school; a senior to continue to live an independent lifestyle; a mother or father to see their child's face clearly for the first time, and people to hear the Gospel message while they are being fitted for their glasses.

For more information https://www.mostministries.org/eyeglass_ministry_faqs



Our next St. Paul LWML meeting will be Tuesday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

LWML NATIONAL NEWS

We praise God for generous Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) women and all gracious donors! LWML's mite offerings as of January 31, 2021, total \$2,046,341.69, which leaves \$53,658.31 left to reach our 2019–2021 LWML Mission Goal of \$2,100,000 before our fiscal year-end on March 31, 2021. There are three mission grants remaining to be funded in this biennium. LWML thanks God and encourages you to continue collecting your mite offerings.



[39th Biennial LWML Convention](#)

[Lexington, Kentucky](#)

[June 24–27, 2021](#)



ST. PAUL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The board met in December and welcomed our two newest members, Dee Wilson and Jay Sloop. Both will serve until July 2022. Along with Dee and Jay, all members reaffirmed their commitment to St. Paul's Boundary Goals, reviewed the CY 2021 budget, and provided comment to church leadership on a COVID 19 relief fund.

The next meeting will be held virtually on 18 Feb. During this winter board meeting we will discuss Senior Pastor Elam's goals for CY2021-2022, relook the CY2021 church budget, receive updates on Covid 19, and mission work/relief projects. At this meeting we will also discuss with Pastor Elam on when a church townhall can be held to discuss the CY2021 budget among other matters.



JOHN OLSEN a longtime member of St. Paul went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on Tuesday, January 26, 2021.

Please keep Debbie and family in prayer.

The St. Paul Church Office will be closed the week following Easter.

Over the years St. Paul member **BECKY CULVER** has been dedicated to sending birthday cards. What a blessing she has been to us. Let's return that blessing to her by sending her cards (not birthday) just to say hello and thinking of you.

Becky Culver, c/o Wetumpka Rehabilitation, 1825 Holtville Road, Wetumpka AL. 36092



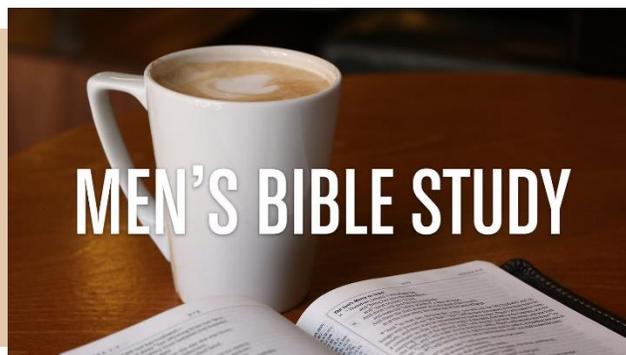
WOMEN OF THE WORD BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, February 25 and March 11
11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

This *Bless These Lips* Bible study addresses the prevalence of negative speech and encourages participants to choose God-pleasing words.



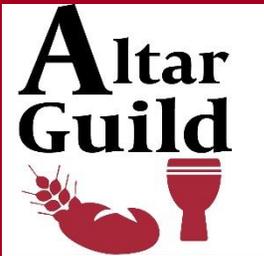
Join Pastor Elam on
Friday, February 19th, March 5th at 7:00 a.m.
for Bible study and breakfast.
Meet at the Farmer's Market Café (315 N. McDonough St.).
For more information contact Pastor Elam.





[Radio Station KFUO](#), owned and operated by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, was officially dedicated to the service of the Triune God on December 14, 1924, during an evening progress broadcast from an attic studio 9:15 to 11:00 p.m.

ST. PAUL JANUARY 2021 FINANCIAL INFORMATION
 January Budget .. \$23,333
 January Gifts \$22,399 (shortfall \$934)



February... Janet Nisbet
 March..... Joan Nightengale
 April Neil Foulger

■ DENNIS THE MENACE



Jeremy Holman	2/15	Luke Marquis	2/20				
Kevin Lear	2/15	Russ Kirklin	2/23				
Bryan Smith	2/15	Tyler Olsen	2/24	Ryan Dradzynski	2/28	Pace Crew	3/9
Jordan Bozeman	2/16	Elizabeth Oswald	2/24	Ryan Bozeman	3/1	Janet Nisbet	3/12
Mackenzie Burley	2/17	Brandon Richardson	2/24	Cynthia Weimer	3/1	Darlene Blumentritt	3/13
Elijah Smith	2/17	Carrie Newman	2/25	Carrie Lueck	3/2	Peter Marquis	3/14
Scarlett Crew	2/20	Debby Thomas	2/27				



Happy Anniversary

- Harlan & Janet Rosin 2/21
- Eric & Kris Burley 3/5
- Patrick & Amy Fairfax 3/9

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.