

# ST. PAUL NEWS

Caring and Sharing God's Love

July 2016

## Hope for the world

by Pastor Aaron Deutsch

It seems as though we are living in hopeless times. It's becoming a chore for me, to tell you the truth, to open the newspaper or even turn on the evening news. At every turn and around every corner we're confronted with a new tragedy and dilemma. Be it a mass shooting in an Orlando night club or politicians flinging mud at one another. Be it the rise of a radical Islamic terrorist organization or crime running rampant. Certainly I'm not the only one who has cried out, "O Lord, my God! How much longer? Come, Lord Jesus! Have mercy on us, Christ!" It's overwhelming as we encounter the unbridled evil that seems to be wantonly overrunning our world.

However, I've been encouraged, friends, over the past few weeks at St. Paul Lutheran. Day in and day out as I begin my ministry in your midst, I've seen the light of Christ shine through the darkness. When the going gets tough and the rest of the world hits the road, fleeing in selfishness, putting self before neighbor, and flocking to put their hope in any passing fad they can cling onto for dear life, you come here to this sanctuary. Make no mistake: the world scoffs at you for doing so. What protection could this place provide? It's no more or less four concrete walls with pews and fancy drapery. It's basically a room like any other, in a building like any other. The world asks, "what possibly could you find there that you can't find anywhere else?"

"Hope", we whisper. You see, while the world runs around like a chicken in the farm yard who has just been decapitated, frantically searching for anything (or anyone) to put their faith, hope, and trust in we nestle into our

pews, opening our ears and our hearts, being fed by Word and Sacrament, unburying ourselves from the sin that weighs us down, and hear from the God who spoke us into creation and holds us in the palm of His hand. We nuzzle close to hear a Word of promise from our Lord Jesus Christ who speaks into the weariness of our world saying, "*In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.*" (John 16:24) When we lose our confidence and doubt creeps onto the scene we huddle snugly together like chicks under the wings of their mother knowing and trusting that the Holy Spirit will come and give faith where the world has stamped uncertainty.

We come here, to St. Paul Lutheran and this normal, ordinary, 4 walled enclosure, because here we are gifted with something that the world cannot give: hope. The false optimism our world gives is quickly fleeting, but hear these words from the mouth of our Lord Jesus: "*I am with you always, to the end of the age.*" (Matthew 28:20) This is a promise you can take to the bank; a promise you can stake your life on. This is a promise worth sharing with the world. As recorded in Acts 1, Jesus wasn't making it an option to be a witness. He said, "*you WILL receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you WILL be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*" Why? So the assurances of Jesus Christ and his boundless love can be made available to all people. As we gaze out onto the death and destruction that has befallen our broken world, the Holy Spirit empowers us to be preachers and speak Christ into the storms.

You, my dear brothers and sisters, are lights of the world; cities set on a hill. Shine your light (that is the light of hope) for all to see. Give glory to the Father in heaven. Make his promises known. Amen.

Pastor Aaron

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**Church Council:** Meeting will be on July 6 at 7pm.

**Altar Guild:** No Meeting this month.

**Joy Circle:** The Joy Circle Family Picnic will be held on Wednesday July 13. Look for more information in the next bulletin!

**Helping Hand:** Helping Hand: We will meet on Thursday, July 7 at 2 pm at Aspen Heights in Hull. Our lesson is Chapter 28 – Mary, John Mark's Mother: Safe House. Our hostess is Erma Fick.

**Adult Education Class:** On Thursday, July 7 Pastor Aaron will begin a new adult education series entitled *Back To The Basics*. Participants will spend 8 weeks walking through the contents Luther's Small Catechism. This confirmation refresher course will run from July 7 to August 25, meeting in the fellowship hall from 6:30pm to 7:45pm

**Reminder:** Vacation Bible School here at St. Paul's, Monday through Thursday, August 8-11, 3 pm to 8pm. ALL Sunday School children are welcome, as are GUESTS. Watch for more information and registration forms in the coming weeks. There will be no cost to your families. Volunteers will be needed to help with supervising the children, snacks and light meals, and teaching the preschool class. Prayerfully consider your contribution to our VBS.

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**Weekly Prayer:** Every Monday at 1:30pm you are invited to join Pastor Aaron for prayer in the sanctuary. Following an example set by the apostles after the ascension of Christ (Acts 1:13) **The Upper Room** experience allows attendees to make corporate petitions for self, faith family, community, nation and world.

**Thank-You:** Pastor Aaron would like to extend a huge thank-you to all of those who played a part in making his transition into Hull a success. Aaron has been knocked over by the love and hospitality of this congregation and is very excited to call this place home.

### **July Worship Assistants**

**Deacon:** Loren Reyelts

**Head Usher:** Staci Egdorf

**Ushers:** David Tiedemann, Jerris Rensink  
Orville Willemsen, Norman Winselmann

**Duties:** Dottie T, & Michelle W.

### **August Worship Assistants**

**Deacon:** Lonnie Egdorf

**Head Usher:** Lonnie Egdorf

**Ushers:** Rob McAlpine, Austin Mosier  
Greg Rens, Nathan Tiedemann

**Duties:** Staci & Wanda



**"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."**

*Psalms 33:12*

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# July Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Evan Wellendorf's birthday
3 9:30am Worship	4 Jeffrey Techen's birthday	5 Brent Allen and Starla De Groot's anniversary	6	7 <i>Back To the Basics Class – 6:30pm</i>	8	9
10 9:30am Communion Worship	11 Drew and Karen Mosier's anniversary The Upper Room – 1:30pm	12 Bev Woelber's birthday	13	14 Jeremy Breuer's birthday <i>Back To the Basics Class – 6:30pm</i>	15 Jennifer Hansmann's birthday	16 Lonnie Egdorf's birthday
17 9:30am Worship	18 The Upper Room – 1:30pm	19	20	21 <i>Back To the Basics Class – 6:30pm</i>	22	23
24 Jeffrey and Luella Techen's anniversary Margery Tiedeman's birthday 9:30am Worship	25 The Upper Room – 1:30pm	26	27 Carol Tiedeman's birthday	28 Wayne Tiedemann's birthday Derek Wellendorf's birthday Preston Schmith's birthday <i>Back To the Basics Class – 6:30pm</i>	29 John Hollander's birthday	30 Warren Tiedeman's birthday
31 9:30am Worship						

### Mission Statement:

The mission of St. Paul Lutheran is to share the good news of Jesus Christ and be his hands and feet to the world – both near and far, by worshiping together, working together, and living in harmony.