
Good News of St. Paul

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

E-mail stpaulcr1@comcast.net

July-August 2020

PASTOR'S PAGE

Freedom in Christ



Humans tend to believe that God is pleased in and rewards our "effort." This makes logical sense to our minds. We reward our children for good behavior, for excelling in academics, we rejoice in their efforts to win during activities. Why would God be any different? (rhetorical)

Our experiences of the Divine are often life changing events. When we see God do the impossible, we are rightly amazed. When we hear God speak truth and wisdom and foreknowledge, we are affirmed and assured of the more that is to come. When we receive peace and comfort in our time of need, we know God's love. When we are used to give a needed "word" to another, then, we too are uplifted. It is wonderful to interact, experience, and be used of God. For me personally, there is nothing more gratifying, and it always leads me to wanting more. More time, more experience, more God.

The problem is we often mix the former, a tendency to believe that God rewards our actions, with the later (experience of God). At least I have this tendency. I firmly believe that God rewards the faithful, uplifts the humble, and resides with His people. The problem manifests when we don't feel or sense God in our life. We quickly jump to the idea that we might be doing something wrong or we need to do something differently to receive God's intimacy. This is a quick road to the "Theology of Glory" as Martin Luther described it.

A Theology of Glory rests upon our efforts and our actions to be in "right" standing with God. It makes God in human image, punishing the bad and uplifting the good..., even when there is no bad (as suggested by Job's friends). This understanding leads to human bondage and not freedom. It existed in the time of the reformation when Martin Luther wrote his 95 theses to renounce this understanding, and, it exists today. The idea that our efforts earn us favor with God and result in God doing/saving/manifesting in ways that "we" want. A Theology of Glory removes divine mystery and replaces it with a jukebox understanding of God, whereby we put in a coin (prayer, payment, way of being) and we get our song of choice. This manifests in a "If we, then God" understanding and it's end is legalistic captivity. For freedom Christ has set you free. (Galatians 5:1)

A "Theology of the Cross" rose in opposition to the this "Theology of Glory," and was expounded on by Martin Luther. In short, you can do NOTHING to earn your favor with God. God is Love. God loves you. God sent his son to reveal God's nature and character. God's redemptive acts in Christ have claimed you and saved you. God finished, started, and completed the work. Believe on this cornerstone and this foundation. Your new life is a GIFT. You can do nothing to separate yourself from God. You are not powerful enough. God is always at hand, near.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Pastor's Page continued)

God has plans for you. Plans for a hope and a future, plans to prosper. There will be challenge, there will be trials, there will be times of wilderness, but they are momentary and transitional. The end is, and will always be, one of joy and triumph, because of GOD and not you. You are loved. You are perfectly imperfect. You are God's!

So, if you are going through a time of drought, do not dwell on your actions, a need for some hidden, unseen, or unknown change that YOU need to accomplish to regain God's favor. Know, KNOW, that God is near and will never leave nor forsake. KNOW that God has only love toward you, and nothing will or can change that. You are God's favored, God's beloved, and God is a good God! Believe this. - Pastor Norm

Remembering Members & Friends

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

All God's people including: Patti Vallencourt, Pr. Denise Arnold, John Ragsdale, Beth Coleman, Pr. Brian Pederson, Grace Kennedy, Laurie Ross-Aristide, Vineta Thomsen, Mary Brown, Pr. Linda Smith, Michael Berndt, Bruce Schumacher, Kelsey Buchanan, Jessica Learned, Stephanie Petkovich, Gayle Agren, Mary Mage, Don Miller, Darlene Jackson, Eric Smith, Lisa Hill, Carolyn Kennington, 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



Benefits of Prayer

During these uncertain and somewhat difficult times we need to be reminded of prayer and it's benefits!

- Prayer influences your state of mind and reduces stress.
- Less chance of depression and anxiety due to a more positive mind
- Gives you strength to deal with day to day stress
- Helps reduce stress disorders such as heart disease, hypertension, and ulcers
- Makes you a better person by helping you be humble.
- And finally prayer helps your body to heal better and age more smoothly!

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



Monthly Financial Report

May: \$ 13,235.00

June: \$ 10,905.00 (as of 6-26-20)

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.





Thank You To:

- Paul Schwinn for spraying weeds in the parking lot.
- Earl Small, Paul Schwinn, and David Whittaker (Property & Finance members) for making some minor repairs to the rental house, painting the porch, and touching up paint on the outside of the structure.
- Earl & Corlan Small for planting/watering plants in front of church.
- Earl Small for power washing the sidewalks and church building.
- Jim Johnston for his willingness to offer guidance with computer issues/updates.
- K.C. Babcock and Glen Agren for their coordination efforts, time, and hours they have given to the *Family Promise* program this past year, representing St. Paul.
- Summer Kids Meals Coordinator Clarence Knutson and Roxanne Knutson for the prep work to make the program work this year. And, all the volunteers who helped serve the bag lunches the first week it ran.
- Elena and Koen Ross, and Clarence and Roxanne Knutson for supplying music for our Sunday worship.

Sunday Morning Worship

With no set date when the church building will open for worship, Pastor Norm will continue to air services on Sunday morning (10:30 a.m.) via Facebook.

The council has decided it is better to be safe and not attempt to return to 'normal' too quickly. Updates will be made to you as things change.



Family Promise

We just finished up two weeks of providing meals for the *Family Promise* residents. These two rotations were done differently due to the COVID-19 situation.

Thanks to the monetary donations from Jon and Julie Davidson and Harlan and Shirley Kittleson we were able to buy supplies for those two weeks for breakfast and lunches. And thanks to the Castle Rock Methodist Church, Castle Rock First Baptist Church, Janet Eiden, Jacki Whittaker, Paul Schwinn, Pat Dick, Katrina Hinesley, Amy Agren, and Clarence and Roxanne Knutson, for helping provide the evening meals. Plus we would have been unable to provide to this ministry without the support of Longview Presbyterian Church. They have been amazing.

Family Promise is a great ministry to provide housing, meals and support. We appreciate all of your support this past year.

Through prayer and conversations both of us are resigning as coordinators of the program. St. Paul has committed to a week in October and we'd like to provide support but we need someone to fill our positions. Please contact Pastor Norm if you are interested in taking over the position.

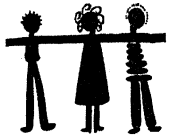
Glen Agren and KC Babcock

Bible Study??



If you would be interested in being a part of a Bible study (via Zoom), Pastor Norm would like to know! Also, what book would you like to study? Have a favorite?





Kids Clothes Closet

Distribution - Friday, Aug. 21st

Our annual Kids Clothes Closet will be held Friday, August 21, starting at 9 a.m. Protocols for handling the Covid situation are being worked out. The Closet may have to run for more hours in order to spread out the attendees and allow for social distancing. All volunteer workers and attendees will be required to have their temperature taken and wear a mask at all times.

Volunteers will be needed that day as always. If you can help, please send a message to roxanneknutson@icloud.com or a text to 360-749-6194. More information will be forwarded as procedures are firmed up.

A crucial need is two people for the distribution of underwear. New purchases will have to be sorted. The day of the Clothes Closet, one person is needed to hand out boys underwear and another for the girls.

As your children's closets are cleaned out this summer, please remember that the KCC takes donations of gently used childrens clothing. Kids Clothes Closet organizers appreciate your continuing support.

- Roxanne Knutson

Treasure the Present

"Patience asks us to live the moment to the fullest...to taste the here and now, to be where we are. When we are impatient, we try to get away from where we are. We behave as if the real thing will happen tomorrow, later, and somewhere else. Let's be patient and trust that the treasure we look for is hidden in the ground on which we stand."
-Henry Nouwen

Patient Attention, Valuable Discoveries

For many people, the coronavirus pandemic has been a test of patience — or worse. Medically vulnerable people face an anxious time of hypervigilance. Furloughed workers wait on hold or in lines for assistance. Special events have been canceled or rescheduled.

Those not impacted directly deal with assorted frustrations and inconveniences. Many people are learning the benefit of slowing down, being present (even virtually) to others and practicing patient attention.

Interestingly, scientist Isaac Newton did some of his best work when the plague forced Cambridge University to close. At home, the inquisitive student invented calculus and developed groundbreaking theories of gravity and optics. Later Newton called 1666 his annus mirabilis ("year of wonders") and reportedly said, "If I have made any valuable discoveries, it [owes] more to patient attention than to any other talent."

What have you discovered during the Covid-19 crisis? What appreciations have you developed for aspects of life you may have previously taken for granted? What has social distancing taught you about the value of neighbors, church, community volunteering?

During the pandemic, what have you learned about persistence and God's presence? What empathy do you now feel for writers of words such as "I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope" (Psalm 130:5,NIV)?

(Excerpt from The NewsletterNewsletter/August edition)



... fear not,
for I am with you;
be not dismayed,
for I am your God;
I will strengthen you,
I will help you,
I will uphold you
with my righteous right hand.



July

August

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Jacob Schaafsma | 1 Clarence Knutson |
| 6 Emily Ashby | Olaf Gieseke |
| 7 Cristy Auckland | Michael Bontoft |
| 8 Danielle Small | Bocephus Johnson |
| 9 Darlene Jackson | 3 Kathy Strain |
| 10 Betty Rose | Betty Light |
| Kylie Vandehey | 5 Pr. Becky Lee |
| 11 Brian Whitten | Conner Ness |
| 13 Pr. Shelley Willem | Beth Coleman |
| 15 Michelle Oswald | Amy Agren |
| 16 Surina Davie | Robert Oswald |
| Zadun Ross | 7 Brooke Hefley |
| 18 Dale Erdelbrock | 9 Preston Foster |
| 19 Marsha Gallow | Tom Cunningham |
| 20 Larry Hensley | 11 Cheryl Smith |
| 21 Joel Anderson | 12 Carol Oswald |
| Jacob Jones | Jacob Rahn |
| 24 Kayla Gulliford | 13 Dan Hecker |
| 25 Megan Sturgill | Howard Houser |
| 28 Sharon Blankenship | 14 Philip Portwood |
| Sue Pulse | 15 Addie Ashby |
| Linda Moody | 16 Kathy Cooper |
| 30 Josephine Davie | Karen Cloke |
| | 17 Samuel Gallow |
| | Elle Gallow |
| | 18 Cassie Davie |
| | Jeanette Foster |
| | 21 Heidi Mitchell |
| | Jim LeMonds |
| | Alonzo Ogden |
| | 29 Blain Lux |
| | 30 Cheyanne Smith |
| | 31 Cory Johnson |
| | Amanda Snow |



July

- 3 Casey & Sarah Davis Bryan
- 6 Ken & Sandee Ness - 55 years
- Dave & Jacki Whittaker - 54 years
- 7 Eric & Susan Denison
- 11 Kevin & Debbie Lyon
- 12 Molly & Troy Franklin - 20 years
- 13 Brian & Mindy Kleine - 15 years
- 16 Cory & Lisa Johnson
- 19 Lloyd & Heather Snow Jr.
- Ryan & Katrina Hinesley
- 20 Teresa & John Bryan
- 24 Boyd & Linda McCall - 58 years
- 26 Robert & Becky Danhauser



August

- 6 Brad & Stephanie Ness
- 8 Tom & Anna Cunningham - 62 years
- 9 Ed & Lorraine Berndt - 69 years
- 10 Al Black & Betty Light
- Bill & Marlene White - 65 years
- 20 Robert & Sandi Nolden
- 30 Steve & K.C. Babcock



Jack Janisch passed away on May 29, 2020.
There will be no service.

Corrinne Kuehner's Memorial is scheduled for Sat., August 29th at 11 a.m.

Barb (Skreen) Lane, former member, passed away June 6, 2020.
(Memorial service pending.)

Blessed Be Their Memory

St. Paul Lutheran
PO Box 847
Castle Rock WA 98611

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

**The Church Building is closed
to all activities at this time.
(w/exception of Kids Meals)**

**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.”***

**The following is the body of a letter sent out each year to folks for the Kids Clothes Closet program.
If you would like to be a supporter as well, your donation would be very much appreciated.**

“The 2019-2020 school year was unusual to say the least. We do not yet know what the 2020-2021 school year will look like. What we do know is that kids continue to grow.

St. Paul Lutheran has a mission to meet the shoe and clothing needs of students in Castle Rock, Toutle Lake, and Vader.

At this time, we do not know what the distribution format will be – that will be dependent upon the CDC and the governor’s rulings. However, we will definitely find a way to get shoes and clothing to those who need it most.”

We appreciate all the volunteers and donations we have received in the past years. Because of the adverse effects on the economy, we have more need than ever before, and, we would like to meet that need.

We are asking that, if possible, could you help support the Kids Clothes Closet by sending in a monetary donation? (**any** amount is appreciated.) Your support is valued very much. Donations can be made out and sent to:

Kids Clothes Closet (or KCC); P.O. Box 847; Castle Rock, WA, 98611

Thank you for your support,

Dayne Johnston , on Behalf of the Kids Clothes Closet



Kids Clothes Closet

“We must speak to the needy with our hands before we speak to them with our lips” -St. Peter Claver