



# St. Paulite



*Support each other with God's Word and sacraments  
Share Christ with our community and the world  
Serve others in Christian love*

## Communion

The pastors have been discussing the best way to distribute the Lord's Supper during this time of isolation. After discussing it for a number of weeks and consulting with recommendations from our church body, we thought it best and safest to commune people privately. We would love to be able to serve you the Lord's Supper, and so please contact one of the pastors to arrange a time. We have been communing people at church or at people's homes, usually in the driveway to keep safe distance. It's also a great time to remember and reflect on what the Bible teaches about the Lord's Supper. Jesus gives us his real body and blood in the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of our sins and to strengthen our faith in him. The Lord's Supper is a tremendous blessing. Yet, it's also good to remember the Lord gives that exact same forgiveness, and he strengthens our faith through the Word we hear in the livestream services, in our daily devotions, and in our Bible readings. During this time when we may not be able to receive the Lord's Supper as often as usual, the gospel comes to us through the Word that shows our Savior and his great love. I like to think of it as a husband and wife in a marriage. They show their love in different ways – they tell each other, they provide for each other, they spend time with each other. So that we may know that God loves and forgives us in Jesus, he gives us the very body and blood of Jesus and lets us receive his grace and mercy through taste and touch. Even if I'm unable to receive the Lord's Supper right now for a time, I still can remember my baptism and the fact that God made a promise to me on that day that my sins are forgiven through water and the Word, and as I hear and read God's Word, I can continue to see and experience God's grace in Jesus.

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## Meditations Available for Pick-Up

The Meditations devotional booklet is an excellent resource for daily time in the Lord's Word. Due to social distancing, we've placed a mailbox outside of the main church entrance near the carport to make Meditations available to you. Feel free to pick one up anytime.



### Contact Us

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## Reflections during COVID-19



Pastor Shane Krause

It's almost a cliché to say it at this point: these are strange times. COVID-19 and the social distancing/Safer at Home orders have drastically changed our lives and the life of our church at St. Paul's, at least in the short term. It may change some things in significant ways for years to come. Here are some of reflections and observations as we've faced this time when we haven't been able to gather for face-to-face worship.

1. **We miss personal fellowship together.** Many of you have reached out and expressed gratitude to all the people involved in sharing God's Word during this time through our various digital platforms. We're

tremendously blessed at St. Paul's with people who can enable us to keep delivering the gospel message on laptops and smartphones. In fact, if our estimates are correct, we think that on many Sundays during Safer at Home we're reaching just as many people with the gospel as we would on our regular Sundays with in-person worship at church. We may have reached more people on some of these past Sundays. God be praised for the fact that his gospel is not chained!

And yet, one of the most common statements we pastors have heard as we've talked with you over the phone and over emails is, "I really miss us being able to worship all together." We miss seeing each other face to face, in the flesh, and we long to be able to chat and laugh and sing and confess and praise together. Safer at Home has made us all, God willing, a little more cognizant of the blessings of personal interaction with others who confess the same faith as us.

2. **Crisis instills in us a godly humility. It keeps our eyes focused in the right place.** It's easy for many of us to fall into the trap of thinking that we're untouchable, that nothing all too bad can happen to us. It's easy for us to fall into the trap of thinking that we've created a secure life for ourselves, to put our trust in our bank accounts and our 401(k)'s. It's easy for us to start thinking that we really are the ones who are in control of virtually every aspect of our lives. This pandemic has been a blessing from God in that perhaps it's served to let the air out of our sinful self-reliant thinking. Jobs have been lost. Bank accounts have shrunk. (I just received my quarterly retirement investment update yesterday-boy, was that depressing!) The news of more sickness and death has been unavoidable.

Crisis teaches us to say more and more, "Teach us to number our days aright, Lord, that we may gain a heart of wisdom," (Psalm 90:12) and, "I need you, Lord. You are the one who grants me daily breath. You are the one who provides for my bodily needs. You are the one who loved me enough to send your Son to grant me forgiveness and eternal life." Thank you, Lord, for instilling in us a godly humility and for keeping our eyes focused firmly on you for deliverance and for every good thing.

3. **The biggest things haven't changed.** When COVID-19 came to America, things changed so quickly. In just a matter of days, our "normal" was completely disrupted. So many uncertainties arose and remain.

But we know that the biggest things have not changed. God doesn't change. His Word doesn't change. His promises don't change. He is the one constant in our lives. What comfort! He'll never renege on his Word to love us and forgive us. He'll never stop guarding and protecting us. His grace is certain. And that is why, under any circumstance of this life, we are safe in our Lord.



## Bible Studies

Below are two options for online Bible studies that started in April. Sign-up using the Google Form:

**“What Happened after Jesus' Death?”** Wednesdays at 6:30 pm  
Pastor Ehlike will be leading a six-week online Bible study called What Happened after Jesus' Death? We'll make use of Zoom for this class. If you would like to attend, please sign-up below, and Pastor Ehlike will send you information about how to access the class. Any questions? Email [behlke@stpaulsonalaska.org](mailto:behlke@stpaulsonalaska.org). Sign-up here: [Wednesday Class](#)

**Faith Builders Bible Basics** Sunday at 9:30 am  
Pastor Krause will be leading an online “Bible basics” class for anyone interested in learning more about God and what his Word says. This class, entitled “Faith Builders”, also serves as the path to take for those interested in becoming members of St. Paul’s. It’s also ideal for any Christian who wants to review the core truths of our faith. This 16-lesson course will meet weekly at 9:30 am beginning April 26 and will last 45-50 minutes. We’ll begin our sessions on a video conference. Once we are able to meet in person again, we will transition to meeting at St. Paul’s during our regular Bible study hour. If you or someone you know would like to attend, sign up here: [Sunday Class](#) Pastor Krause will send you an email with a link which will allow you to join the interactive online class.

## Do You Need Help? Do You Want To Help?

One of the most difficult things a person can ever do is to ask for help. It’s difficult to swallow our own pride and go to someone else. At the same time, realize that when a person asks for help, they provide an opportunity for someone else to love their neighbor. Sometimes the reason the Lord allows suffering in one person is to give another person the opportunity to serve.

There are some in our congregation now who are struggling in a number of ways. Whether you need help with grocery shopping, yard work, counseling, or finances, feel free to contact one of the pastors at St. Paul’s. Give us the opportunity to serve you.

For those of you in our congregation who are willing and able to serve, let us know how. Again, contact one of the pastors and we’ll let you know if someone contacts us. If you would like to help with someone’s financial needs, all financial help that we offer comes from the “Needy Fund.” There are two ways that you can donate to that fund. You can send a check to our church and mark on the envelope “Needy Fund” (PO BOX 128, Onalaska, WI 54650). Or you can give online at [stpaulsonalaska.org/give](http://stpaulsonalaska.org/give). On the button, GIVE ONLINE NOW, click “Needy fund”.

Let’s follow the Apostle Paul’s encouragement where he says, “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” (Galatians 6:10)

## Thru My Bible

May
1. Deuteronomy 14, 15
2. Dt. 16, 17
3. Dt. 18, 19
4. Dt. 20, 21
5. Dt. 22, 23
6. Dt. 24, 25
7. Dt. 26
8. Dt. 27:1-28:14
9. Dt. 28:15-68
10. Dt. 29, 30
11. Dt. 31
12. Dt. 32:1-47
13. Dt. 32:48-34:12
14. Mark 10:1-16
15. Mk. 10:17-31
16. Mk. 10:32-52
17. Mk. 11:1-19
18. Mk. 11:20-33
19. Mk. 12:1-27
20. Mk. 12:28-44
21. Mk. 13:1-23
22. Mk. 13:24-37
23. Mk. 14:1-25
24. Mk. 14:26-52
25. Mk. 14:53-72
26. Mk. 15:1-21
27. Mk. 15:22-41
28. Mk. 15:42-16:8
29. Mk. 16:9-20
30. Judges 1:1-2:5
31. Jdg. 2:6-3:6



## A LETTER OF CHILENJE PROJECT UPDATE

Dear Brothers, Sisters, Friends, Donors, and Mission Partners in the Lord,  
Happy Easter, Christ the Lord, is risen. He is risen, indeed. Hallelujah! Jesus is alive, our hope is alive, and God is holding the whole world in His hands. Amen.

The world has changed because of COVID - 19. So many things have changed. Plans, life and calendars have changed, but Jesus is the same. God does not change.

In February of 2020, the Lusaka Province Planning Authority approved our drawings. They granted Chilenje Lutheran Church, the official Planning Permission to commence construction works of the church building. It was official. This breaking news was immediately shared with the synod leadership, WELS's One Africa Team officials in Zambia, and other appropriate synod stakeholders. Also, we invited the synod leadership, WELS's One Africa Team officials in Zambia, and other synod stakeholders such as the LCCA's Board of Trustees and LCCA's Committee on Finances and Stewardship to work with us and be involved in the project.

In the light of this development, Chilenje congregation leadership and the LCCA's Board of Trustees convened a series of meetings to chart the way forward. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss the process of identifying and appointing the contractor, and to discuss the date to commence construction works as well as the timeline for the project. These discussions were concluded, and I'm now in order to share with you our official position regarding the project.

**Project Manager.** Our joint team appointed the architects as the project manager to supervise the project in accordance with the Zambian laws governing building practices. A clerk of works was also appointed to be on the site. The clerk of works is our member.

**Building Contractor.** Our joint team resolved to hire a contractor who would be providing labor services ONLY, and is being supervised by the architects, our project manager. Our joint team, that is, LCCA's Board of Trustees and Chilenje congregation leadership, are in this project together, in purchasing building materials and supplies as and when approved by the architects and the quantity surveyor.

**Tendering Process.** The architects pursued a selecting tendering procedure. They invited 7 contractors for bidding. 4 of these contractors were invited by the LCCA's Board of Trustees. The architects carried out the vetting process in consultation with our team, and appointed the number one contractor. Our team handed over the site to the contractor on March 9, 2020. On March 11, 2020, the contractor commenced the construction works. The timeline for the project is March 11, 2020 to July 11, 2020, all factors being equal.

**Current Project Status .**Our joint team advised the contractor to start works with the toilet facility (ablution block) first so that it can serve as our storage facility for some of the building supplies. Toilet construction is under way as can be seen in the pictures. Excavation and setting works of the main church building are under way as can be seen in the pictures. Excavation works are being done manually. Hiring of excavation equipment is very, very expensive. Only Government and large corporations have the financial ability to hire them. Our church building is either the largest or second largest church building in our synod body, at least, as of 2020.

**COVID – 19 update.** Zambia as a country, has recorded 52 cases beginning with March 22, 2020 up to date, April 17, 2020. 30 of these cases have fully recovered, and were discharged from the health facilities. 2 cases of death, and 20 cases are still active, at least, as of today, April 17, 2020.

Once again, thank you for sharing your resources to build this church in Africa. Thank you for trusting us with your resources. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for the partnership. We are still open to suggestions, cooperation and partnerships. Stay tuned for the next update.

Please feel free to contact me for anything you would like to know about the project and our congregation. My email account is as above. Thank you.

Your brother in the Lord, Jonathan Kangongo (Pr.) Chilenje Lutheran Church

*P/S: LCCA stands for the Lutheran Church of Central Africa – Zambia Synod, a WELS mission field in Zambia, Africa. WELS is a sister synod. We are brothers and sisters in the Lord. God be praised for this partnership and relationship. There's power in the blood of Jesus.*



### People, Purpose, Promise

Are you sick of Amazon Prime, Nexflix, or Disney Plus? Do you get to the end of your day and wonder if you accomplished anything productive? Are you tired of viewing friends and loved ones through technology?

Whether you are an extrovert or introvert, God designed us to crave community. We want to be with other people, work with other people, learn with other people, experience life with other people. I know for me, watching a comedy by myself is really not very satisfying. I want to laugh at the jokes with other people. It is just more fun that way.

Everyone needs a break, a time to relax and recharge. Those who have demanding jobs often crave some time away from the office, the deadlines, and the pressures of their job. People without jobs seek hobbies, volunteer opportunities, and other ways to feel productive and useful. Most of us have a hard time sitting around without much to do. Right now, those people might be making masks or finding safe ways to help those in need around them.

Perhaps the most frustrating part of our current situation is the uncertainty. As I write this article, there are protests around the nation to reopen our states and get our economy going again. Even after the White House released stages of reopening our country, no clear end is in sight.

While our government leaders provide a few promises that may comfort us (stimulus checks, support for small businesses, etc.), none of them compare to the certain promises of our God. Forgiveness is ours through Jesus – that’s a certainty! Physical death leads to eternal life – guaranteed! We will see our Savior face to face – absolutely! At a time when people are looking for promises they can trust, we have the certain promises of the Gospel. Share those promises, my friends!

This article was inspired by a blog post by Missy Martens titled “Three quarantine insights” on the Time of Grace website.

### Wisconsin Parental Choice Program

St. Paul’s will continue to participate in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program for the 2020-2021 school year. Because St. Paul’s was able to enter the program under Luther High School, **there are no grade level restrictions for one more year.**

**Who is eligible?** Any student residing in Wisconsin whose family meets the income requirements.

Families should check the Department of Public Instruction website to find more information. The online application is also completed through the DPI website.

Families who are currently taking advantage of the WPCP must submit an application EACH YEAR to continue in the program. You WILL need to verify your residency again, submitting the appropriate documentation to our office. You will NOT need to verify income again for any returning children, but you WILL need to qualify income for any new children joining the program.

**This just out: the application window for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program has been extended to May 14, 2020.**

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### 2020-2021 Enrollment

The table shows our current WPCP applications totaling 78. I feel pretty confident that 76 of those applicants will attend St. Paul's next year. Of those, 11 represent new participation in the program from current St. Paul's students. An additional 11 represent possible new students for St. Paul's.

As a reminder, each School Choice Administrator may INCREASE the number of available seats for the WPCP after the application period closes. This allows us to provide seats for as many students as we feel we are able. If we are not able to accept all students applying through the WPCP, the Wisconsin DPI uses an established protocol to determine which applicants may attend St. Paul's on a voucher.

The final column of the table shows anticipated enrollments for 4K-8<sup>th</sup> grade next year. Preschool enrollment, with session choices, makes the student count a little fuzzy. For comparison, we began the 2019-2020 school year with 172 students in grades K-8. Right now it looks like we will have 175 in those grades for 2020-2021. Another year of growth for St. Paul's despite graduating a class of 23. God is blessing our work in His name! To Him alone be the glory!

Grade	Seats Available	Current Applications	Anticipated Enrollment
K4	7	9	19+
K	9(2)	11	19+
1	10	12	24
2	5	5	13
3	9	12	25
4	4	3	15
5	4	8	19
6	4	3	19
7	8	10	17
8	5	5	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>194+</b> <b>(Note: This is w/o 3K)</b>

### School Closure for COVID-19

On April 16, Gov. Evers extended the Safer at Home Order, closing school doors for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Our teachers continue to serve students and families with distance learning. In some cases, distance learning is happening through learning packets. In other cases, various technology tools allow teachers to deliver content, collect assignments, and provide feedback. Many teachers have scheduled videoconferences with their classes to make connections with students as personal as possible, provide instruction, and answer questions about school work.

Will COVID-19 impact learning next school year? I certainly pray it will not. However, we are looking to the future and beginning to plan for that possibility. During the next months, we plan to consider infrastructure, tools, policies, and protocols in the event that the spread of COVID-19 remains a public health risk.

### STEM Camp @ St. Paul's

St. Paul's Lutheran School is currently scheduled to host Camp Invention (for students entering grades K-6) the week of July 20-24, 2020. With the uncertainty of the situation with COVID-19, little information has been sent out to promote our STEM Camp. Since our Camp is later in the summer, I am hopeful it will happen. Here is a [link](#) to register or learn more, if you are interested.

### Principal Training Program

After our congregation's Call to Justin Wiechmann was returned, our Board of Education decided to pursue an assignment from Martin Luther College in the Principal Training Program. A February 13, 2020, edition of the blog *Issues in Lutheran Education* pointed out that 60 WELS principals left the profession in the past two years for various reasons. As of this writing, four schools of the Luther High

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School Association are seeking principals for 2020-2021. This kind of loss is something our school system cannot sustain. We need to train and support our WELS principals so that we can reduce the losses to resignation and non-principal positions.

The Principal Training Program is designed to continue the education of Martin Luther College graduates who have demonstrated leadership and administrative abilities to prepare them for a principal position. Congregations with open teaching positions in grades 3-8 who are led by an experienced WELS principal may apply to participate in the program. The congregation, then, may be assigned an MLC graduate as a teacher and participant in the Principal Training Program. During his first three years of ministry, he continues his education to prepare him for the role of principal in one of our WELS schools. During his third year, this person becomes eligible for Calls to serve at other congregations. While the experienced principal is training the graduate, he is ineligible for Calls. This means that if we are indeed assigned a graduate for the Principal Training Program, Mr. Bain would be ineligible for Calls for the next two years.

The Principal Training Program is a way St. Paul's can partner with our Synod to help train a future principal at a time when the need is great. St. Paul's benefits from the program because we would be assigned a candidate that has demonstrated leadership and administrative abilities. The mentoring process is likely to help Mr. Bain grow in his leadership and administrative abilities, and our administrative team will likely be better equipped to meet the needs of our church and school ministry.

Martin Luther College will be conducting a **virtual commencement service** at 10:00 am on Saturday, May 16, 2020. The **virtual Call Service** will follow. Both of these services will be streamed. Check MLC's website for details. There are several St. Paul's members graduating and available for assignment this year!

### **MLC Day – May 6, 2020**

What is MLC Day? It is a day to pray for MLC, share the story of MLC through various means, and give to support the work of MLC. This year, MLC is focusing on their graduates this year. You can find information, including a scrolling photo gallery of 2020 MLC graduates on the page [mlcday.com](http://mlcday.com). There you will find prayers written by MLC supporters, and you can submit your own prayer. The Share tab gives various items for sharing through social media.



### **Student Assistance Funds for Those Preparing for Ministry**

Remember to support St. Paul's two student assistance funds we use to assist young men and women studying for the teaching and preaching ministry.

The **Student Support – Ministerial** fund (SSM) for men and women who are attending Martin Luther College to prepare to be teachers **or** pastors needs about \$3,000-4,000 each year.

The **Student Support – Pastoral** fund (SSP) for men who are training at the seminary to be pastors needs about \$700-1,400 each year.

### **Wish List**

If you would like to help fund special projects (outside our budget funding), please see the items on **St. Paul's Wish List**. Follow the instructions at the bottom of the list on how to make a donation. Click the link below to go to the list or go to St. Paul's website and on the menu at the top of the page, click **Give** and then **Wish List**.

[Master Wish List](#)