



# ST. PAUL LUTHERAN

## MINISTRIES

CHURCH • SCHOOL • CHILDCARE

302 N. Morrison St. Appleton, WI 54911

April 2020



I never imagined we would do it. We've only canceled our Sunday worship services once in my twenty years as pastor – the Sunday after Hurricane Harvey.

This was different. We had electricity. Roads were open. In fact, we hadn't even had a case of Coronavirus in Jackson County at the time.

Why would we cancel church?

I was watching and reading other pastors online who were saying that canceling church would be an act of doubt in God's promises. Some even quoted Psalm 91: *"I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust.' Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence"* (Psalm 91:2,3).

Pestilence is a fatal epidemic. God promises to protect us from pandemic. Isn't canceling church tantamount to doubting his promises?

What really helped me as we made this decision was when I remembered that Psalm 91 is actually quoted in the New Testament – by the devil.

When the devil tempted Jesus, he took him to the highest point of the temple. He told him to throw himself down trusting that God would protect him. He quoted Psalm 91 where God promises to send his angels to protect us and keep our feet from striking a stone.

Jesus' response? *"It is also written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test'"* (Matthew 4:7).

We trust God and yet we go to the doctor. We trust God and yet we put on a seatbelt. We trust God and yet we don't go to church when we have the flu because we don't want to get other people sick.

One of the ways God uses to protect us is by giving us wisdom and common sense to avoid dangerous situations and to take proper precautions.

By temporarily suspending our public worship services, we are obeying the Fourth Commandment which deals with honoring and obeying the authorities God has placed over us. Our national, state and local governments are all encouraging us to maintain social distancing and to self-isolate.

By suspending our public worship services, we are obeying the Fifth Commandment which deals with protecting human life. By gathering together, we put in danger the sick and the elderly who are susceptible to the disease. In the end, it is love for others which led to this decision.

But what about the Third Commandment which deals with worship and the faithful use of God's Word and Sacraments? God commands us to not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing (Hebrews 10:25).

The truth is, we are not canceling church. We are temporarily suspending our public worship services. Church will continue. As Christians, we should and will continue to study God's Word and worship him in our homes.

We will even continue to worship our God together through his wonderful gifts of technology. Please make use of the worship services which are being broadcast and livestreamed on the internet. Don't use this pandemic as an excuse to not worship or grow in God's Word.

Can this replace physically gathering as a body of believers? No. That's why it is only temporary. We still need each other. We still need Holy Communion and Baptism.

But for now, we obey the authorities and experts. For now, we show love to those who are susceptible to the disease. For now, we worship in other ways. But understand this:

**Church has definitely not been canceled!**

*Pastor Andrew Schroer – WELS Pastor in Edna, TX*

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## Worship Schedule

**Sunday services: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.**

**Monday evenings: 6:00 p.m.**

**Midweek Lent services: 3:45 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.**

**\*Times are listed in the event that the 'shelter in place order' is lifted prior to service dates. Until then, we will continue to have services on facebook live (Sunday at 8am & Wed. Lent at 3:45pm. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will also be on facebook. 8am services can be heard on WNAM 1280 AM, and our 3-hour service will also be broadcast over the radio on Good Friday, noon – 3pm.\***

*Radio Broadcast – Sundays 8:00 a.m. WNAM 1280 AM*

4/1	Midweek Lent 6 – The Warrior Rejected by Many Followers
4/5, 4/6	Sixth Sunday in Lent – Palm Sunday: Undeclared because our King has come
4/9	Maundy Thursday (services at 3:45 & 6pm)
4/10	Good Friday 3-hour service noon – 3pm
4/12	The Resurrection of Our Lord – Easter Day: Undeclared by the Grave (No Mon. Service)
4/19, 4/20	Second Sunday of Easter – The Resurrection is the Central Feature of Faith
4/26, 4/27	Third Sunday of Easter – ECC Sunday

## Official Acts

### Profession of Faith:

Mary Casey

Kameryn Casey

### Transfer In:

Robert & Jaclyn Yerges

Mabel Olson

Eric & Barb Hopfensperger and children

### Transfer Out:

Austin & Karley Hopfensperger

## Release:

Rebecca Uttendorfer

Elizabeth Uttendorfer

Cindy Gutsmeidl

## Financials through Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

	Feb.	July – Feb.
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$ 223,451</b>	<b>\$ 1,415,439</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$ 160,885</b>	<b>\$ 1,367,448</b>

**Behind / Ahead \$+62,566 \$ +47,991**

**All bills are paid, all obligations are met.**

**\*Yearly income includes a transfer of \$24,920 from MLF to GE Fund for deficit months.**

UPDATE ECC MORTGAGE			
Original Note Date	4/10/2015	Next Maturity Date*	10/20/2021
Extra Payment on Principal For March 2020	\$192,667.80		
Investors Bank			
Starting Mortgage Value	11/20/2015	\$	2,000,000.00
Amount paid off of Principal as of	3/17/2020	\$	1,801,061.46
Mortgage value as of	3/17/2020	\$	198,938.54
ECC Debt Retirement Effort directly to debt		\$	1,574,202.16
Money applied from normal monthly payment to debt		\$	226,859.30
Total Payments on Principal	3/17/2020	\$	1,801,061.46
Total interest saved over 20 years at 4.4% by ECC Debt Retirement Program			
ECC Debt Ret.		Int %	Interest Saved
\$ 1,574,202.16		4.4%	\$ 1,385,297.90

To make an offering for ECC Debt retirement use any envelope in your packet or a normal envelope. Your envelope number must be on the envelope so your contribution can be recorded. **TO HAVE IT APPLY DIRECTLY TO THE OUTSTANDING BALANCE OF THE LOAN, WRITE "ECC DEBT RETIREMENT" ON THE ENVELOPE. To God be the Glory.**

\* 5 year locked interest (4.40%)

## School News

### **Mission Statement:**

*Using God's Word as our guide, St. Paul Lutheran School will raise up future generations of Christians in our community by assisting parents in the Christian teaching of their children and by striving for excellence in all areas of instruction.*

**A Note From Our Principal:** Virtual Learning at St. Paul Lutheran School! Wow! There have been many changes in the methods that your school fulfills its mission to assist parents in the Christian education of their children while striving for excellence in all areas of instruction. As of March 23, St. Paul Lutheran School has transferred its learning from our brick and mortar school building to the world wide web. This could not have been successfully accomplished if it were not for your faithful faculty at your school! They spent a majority of their Spring Break meeting and developing a framework for Virtual Learning at St. Paul Lutheran School. They then spent many hours learning how to instruct, develop, and implement their lessons online.

We truly do have caring and dedicated teachers at St. Paul! It is amazing that our teachers first priority was the Christian education of our children. Our main focus was

ensuring that God's Word continues to be with our children during this unprecedented time in history. Our teachers first worked on developing online lessons for devotions and Bible classes. They then developed lessons for Math and English/Language Arts. As the weeks continue with this form of instruction, our teachers will develop and implement other subject areas that were once offered in our physical school building. While we do not know the duration of this form of instruction, we do know that God is still in control! God will continue to work out all things for our eternal good. Jesus is our Savior from sin, and our true home is in Heaven. Our students will continue to learn these truths online just as they have in our physical classrooms over the past 140 years! God be with you until we meet (face-to-face) again!

In His Service,  
*Jason Kelley*

**School Choice Registration – Closing 4/16!** This government program allows funding for qualifying families to opt out of the public school system and utilize a participating private school (St. Paul IS a participating school). The website for enrolling in the program can be found at: <https://sms.dpi.wi.gov/ChoiceParent/>. If you have any questions, or know of anyone who could make use of the program, please speak with Mr. Rehberger. Please note that families currently participating in the program MUST reapply for next school year.

**Forensics Success:** Our forensics team under the guidance of Mr. and Mrs. Rehberger, Mrs. Frey, and Mrs. Huth recently participated in two meets. On Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, our students participated at Trinity, Neenah. On Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, we competed at the Fox Valley Lutheran High School Forensics Festival. Great job to all of our forensics competitors! We are proud of all team members and coaches.

## LWMS

Upcoming LWMS events:

**June 25-28** - International LWMS Convention, Athens, GA - Registration is underway for the convention through the LWMS website: [www.lwms.org](http://www.lwms.org).

Contact Connie Frey with any questions about LWMS, [conniefrey@hotmail.com](mailto:conniefrey@hotmail.com) or 920-428-5623.

A message from Pastor Daniel Habben, St. John's Lutheran Church, St. John's, Antigua, & Barbuda:

My family and I arrived in Antigua just in time for the 2017 monster hurricanes, Irma and Maria. Although our sister island, Barbuda, was destroyed by Irma, the island of Antigua escaped relatively unscathed.

While I am new to the Caribbean mission field, I spent my first 18 years of ministry in Alberta, Canada. I also grew up as a missionary kid in Japan, where my father served for 42 years.

How have I seen technology make a difference in spreading the gospel? When the congregation in Alberta remodeled its sanctuary, it invested in livestream technology so we could serve members living far from church. Not just these members, but also people from as far away as the Philippines started viewing the online services.

As a result of the streamed services, I had a regular Sunday afternoon email correspondence with one individual who lived over three hours away. While my intention was to encourage him in his walk with the Lord, he was also an encouragement to me as he made specific comments about the sermon and the service. Without the ability to stream or to communicate quickly through email, that's a contact I wouldn't have had.

In the Caribbean, people communicate using WhatsApp on their smartphones. Through this instant messaging system, I am able to drop a quick note to prospects and arrange meetings. It's an easy way to let people know that I care about them and want to help them in their walk with Jesus, even if I often end up communicating with emojis!

The most helpful piece of technology for me personally has been Google Maps. There are no house numbers in Antigua, and only recently did street signs start appearing. Finding homes would have been a nightmare without the ability to pin a destination on the map and be directed to it by my smart phone. I'm so glad my first year hasn't been spent aimlessly driving down narrow roads in search of my sheep.

Of course, I ought to be even more thankful that I have God's Word. For without it, my life and yours would be an aimless wandering from one earthly delight (and disappointment) to the next. May God fill us with his love as we seek to share that Word of salvation in a world that is lost without Jesus.

*Pastor Daniel Habben, St. John's Lutheran Church,  
St. John's, Antigua, & Barbuda*

## Weekly Offering/E-Giving Update

As you are already aware, our weekly and Lent in-person services are currently suspended which also means we have not been able to give our weekly gifts for collection. A portion of our weekly gifts and offerings helps our ministries cover standard operating expenses, payments, bills, etc. As we are actively continuing our ministries through Facebook services and on-line virtual schooling, the requirements for our general operating funding has not decreased. While we are waiting for our normal in-person services to resume, if you are able and still wish to give your weekly or Lenten gifts please feel free to mail your offering to our church office or use the EasyTithe giving option on our website or at this

link <https://app.easytithe.com/App/Giving/offering>. Easy Tithe giving can be a one-time or weekly reoccurring offering. You could also be setup for direct deposit through your banking institution if you are not comfortable giving online. Whatever your choice, thank you for your continued support for our St. Paul Ministries!

## Upcoming Spiritual Growth Opportunities (watch for updates):

**Letters of John:** Using the tests of righteousness, love and right belief, John examines these truths: God is light, we are children of God, God is love. Led by Pastor Holtz. Thursday mornings at 9:15 am, beginning April 16th.

**Means of Grace:** How do we get faith? How can I be close to God? Where do we look for the assurance of our salvation? The means of grace is a uniquely Lutheran doctrine that explains how the Holy Spirit works in our hearts and lives. Led by Pastor Frey. Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm beginning April 22nd.

## ECC Update

The coronavirus pandemic has become a time of uncertainty for all of us. The ECC is no exception. Always keeping in mind that the safety of our children, staff, and their families is our number one priority (second only to sharing the message of the Gospel), the ECC board decided to close the ECC until further notice due to the pandemic. This was an extremely difficult decision to make knowing that we supply care to some essential workers in our community. We are working with those families to find the care services they need in the interim. The ECC lead teachers are helping keep lines of communication open with families by offering resources and routines for parents to keep their children engaged with developmentally appropriate activities. These teachers are currently working without pay. We have an excellent staff and they are to be commended for all of their efforts. We are also extremely blessed to have such overwhelmingly supportive families.

These are uncertain times, but one thing we can be certain of is the saving love our Father has for us. Please pray for your church leadership, your school, and your ECC. Please pray for our ECC families that work medical and other essential roles through all of this. Please pray for your ECC staff as they are all paid hourly and are suffering from financial uncertainty like so many others right now. We take comfort the Lord knows how this will all resolve and we can trust that he will bless us through this. The season of Lent points us to Jesus and what he did for us. It points us to the suffering and death that were done in our place. And it leads us to Easter,

where we rejoice knowing Jesus won the battle over sin and death and proclaimed victory over the devil. Because of all Jesus did those many years ago, we have eternal certainty!

John 3:16-17 *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*

## St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church and School Project Wish List

- |    |                          |          |
|----|--------------------------|----------|
| 1. | LED Lights for Gym       | \$8,000  |
| 2. | Chimney cover for church | \$1700   |
| 3. | Push Bars for Door       | \$4000   |
| 4. | Security cameras         | \$5000   |
| 5. | Classroom doors          | \$29,000 |

Any donations (large or small) given toward these items is greatly appreciated. Some of these items/projects have been purchased/completed and we are looking for members to help in covering any part of the costs involved.

For a closer look at these items as well as giving options, including 'Easy Tithe', please follow this link: [Wish List Giving](#). As always, THANK YOU for your support.

## FVL NEWS (watch for updates or contact FVL directly for date confirmations)

**FVL FoxFest 2020** is coming to Liberty Hall on Friday, 4/24 from 5-10 PM. The deadline for purchasing tickets is 4/3! Get your tickets at [fvlhs.org/foxfest](http://fvlhs.org/foxfest). No tickets will be sold at the door. This year's theme is "Disco"! Get in on the fun! Contact Megan Beyer ([mbeyer@fvlhs.org](mailto:mbeyer@fvlhs.org)) or 920-560-5122 for details.

**FVL Tuition Help:** Applications for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) and FVL's Tuition Assistance program are open until 4/16. WPCP offers families the chance to have their student's FVL tuition fully funded. Incoming 9th graders, homeschoolers, or public school transfers are eligible. Families who don't meet WPCP eligibility are encouraged to apply to FVL's Tuition Assistance program. Find out more at [fvlhs.org/todays-news](http://fvlhs.org/todays-news). Questions? Email [hknoll@fvlhs.org](mailto:hknoll@fvlhs.org).

**Ladies Guild Memorial Scholarship** offers grants of up to \$500 to new FVL freshmen or incoming upperclassmen who demonstrate financial need and a love of Christian education. Deadline is 4/16. Details at [fvlhs.org/todays-news](http://fvlhs.org/todays-news)

**Register for FVL's 2020 Summer Camps!** Sports camps plus options for Art, Engineering, and Computer Science are offered. Find out more by going to "Youth Sports/Camps" under "Future Foxes" at [fvlhs.org](http://fvlhs.org).

**All incoming FVL freshmen** should plan on taking the ASPIRE test. Most take this at their grade school. If not offered at your school, the test is being offered at FVL on 4/25 from 9 AM-12:30 PM. FVL covers the cost. More info at "Placement Tests" under "Admissions" at [fvlhs.org](http://fvlhs.org). Contact [dstiller@fvlhs.org](mailto:dstiller@fvlhs.org) with questions.

**FVL's Future Freshman Night** is Monday, 4/20. It is designed for all registered 8th graders & their parents as well as those still undecided. Hear about preparing for academic success, student life, social/emotional changes, and more. New this year--check out the booths in FVL's Commons to find out more about the various after-school activities FVL offers. Doors open at 6:30 PM. Our speakers present from 7-8 PM, and booths will be available again until 8:30 PM. No registration needed.