

For All The Saints



*The Epistle of St. Paul Lutheran Church, The Grove, Texas
May 2021*

Dear Fellow Redeemed:

As we studied together one day this past week, we heard this illustration from Rick Warren. It resonated with me as I seem to talk about this often.

The illustration reminds us that when the Titanic set sail in 1912, it was declared to be “unsinkable” because it was constructed using a new technology. The ship’s hull was divided into sixteen watertight compartments. Up to four of these compartments could be damaged or even flooded, and still the ship would float.

Tragically, the Titanic sank on April 15, 1912 at 2.20 a.m. One thousand five hundred thirteen people lost their lives. At the time, it was thought that five of its watertight compartments had been ruptured in a collision with an iceberg.

However, on September 1, 1985, when the wreck of the Titanic was found lying upright on the ocean floor, there was no sign of the long gash previously thought to have been ripped in the ship’s hull. What they discovered was that damage to one compartment affected all the rest.

Many people make the Titanic mistake. They think they can divide their lives into different “compartments.” We try to compartmentalize the various aspects thinking they have nothing to do with the rest. What I do on Sunday mornings has no effect on what I do during the week, or so many think. What I do at work is not connected to what I do at home, or so we think. How I live when no one is watching really has no impact on the rest of my life. In short, it is thought that what I do in one compartment of my life will not affect the rest. However, as Rick Warren says, “A life of integrity is one that is not divided into compartments.”

David gives us the wonderful example as he prayed for “an undivided heart” in Psalm 86:11. In the Amplified Version of the Bible it reads like this: “Teach me Your way, O LORD, I will walk and live in Your truth; Direct my heart to fear Your name [with awe-inspired reverence and submissive wonder].”

One of the saddest things about a compartmentalized life is to hear, when you tell someone of the death of a friend or coworker who was very active in the church, that they never knew he or she was a Christian or attended a church. And yet from time to time that is exactly what you hear. That is a wakeup call for me.

So, I pray, Heavenly Father, teach me Your way so that I will walk and live in Your truth. Direct my heart to fear Your name with awe-inspired reverence and wonder, even as I live for You in every aspect of my life. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen!

In HIS service and yours,

Pastor Heckmann
Hebrews 13:20-21

MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE AS WE CONTINUE TO COME OUT OF THIS COVID PANDEMIC

At our most recent Elders Meeting we spent a lot of time, following an hour of study of the Formula of Concord, how we envision the future as more and more people are vaccinated and as we move boldly into the future as a family of faith called St. Paul Lutheran Church, the Grove, Texas. I do believe that most everyone who wants to be vaccinated has had that opportunity. If you are wanting to be vaccinated and have not had that opportunity, check out the Vaccination Station in the parking lot of the Scott and White Building on Kegley road by the Scott and White Continuing Care Hospital. I have been there a couple of times in the past week and no one is in line and the nurses, security guards, etc., are just chilling under the tents waiting for some business. Let me know if you want more information about that.

It was decided after much prayer and discussion to re-implement the following things (in no particular order in the listing here) beginning on Sunday, May 2, 2021.

1. We will begin hosting the various fellowship opportunities that we know and love from pre-Covid days. The first event was the LYF sponsored Easter Breakfast. It went off without a hitch and without any disease transmission. The next events will be held on Mother's Day as the Board of Education hosts Muffins with Mom and the LYF prepares for and hosts our traditional Mother's Day Banquet following our worship service on May 9th. The Muffins with Mom event will run from **8:30 a.m. until 9:00 a.m.** at which time our two Adult Bible Classes will begin in their respective locations.
2. Beginning on May 2nd we will have those elected to serve as Money Counters begin their usual work of counting the offerings after the late worship service and depositing those funds in the bank each week. Tina Reynolds and Renee Owen are up for the month of May.
3. Beginning on May 1st we will have those who volunteered to serve on the Altar Guild to begin their service again. This means that in May, Brandy and Shaylei Wrisk and Tammy and Sarah Terrell will serve us in this way.
4. The Greeters in May are Bob and Paula Bangsund. (Yes, while we have two services you can pick at which service you would like to greet, unless you would like to Greet at both.)
5. We will begin to pass the Offering Plates once again. This means that we will call upon our Usher corps to become active again as well. The Ushers for May are: James Morrow, Timothy Michalk, Ryan Sohns, Brad Winkler, and Casey Winters.
6. We will also begin to fill out "Green Cards" again so that we can do a much better job of accounting of the souls for which God has given us responsibility.
7. Also on May 2nd we will begin taking Sunday School attendance and receiving our Sunday School Offerings as we have in the past.
8. Beginning on May 2nd, we will also begin offering the Common Cup as we celebrate the Lord's Supper for those who would like to receive the blood of Christ in, with, and under the wine that way.

As we see how these matters go, we will continue to move forward in our attempts to return to pre-Covid times in many ways. As President Houchin made very clear at our Voters Meeting in April, it is time that we get back to work finishing out 2021 strongly and being poised to do incredible things in the kingdom as we enter the Year of Our Lord 2022.

SAVE THE DATE:
Muffins with Mom - 8:30 a.m. - MPR
Mother's Day Banquet - 11:30 a.m. - FAC
May 9, 2021

NEW FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY – FRIDAY FUN

Each Friday night the members of our congregation and community have the opportunity to spend time in fellowship and relationship building in this world that is separating us further and further from each other. We gather at the church Friday evenings from 5:30-7:30 p.m. for a devotion and for a time of eating (bring your own supper) hanging out, talking, and playing games. We would love for you to join us on the days that work for you and/or your family. Come when you want and leave when you want. This is open to ANYONE. We look forward to seeing you whenever you are able to come. Bring snacks or dinner for your family if you would like, or just come for this time of getting to know each other better. **Everyone is invited.**

SAVE THE DATE:
New Member/Confirmation/ Graduation Dinner
May 30, 2021
11:30 a.m.

NEWER BIBLE STUDY

The Cell Group that usually meets on the second Sunday of the month in the evening has decided to revamp and intentionally to invite more people to join them as they consider how Spiritual Warfare plays out in our lives, in our homes, in our church, and in the lives of those we love. They are studying a book entitled "I Am Not Afraid: Demon Possession and Spiritual Warfare." We easily pass that off as nonsense and the stuff of little children's costumes on Halloween, but it is a very real thing. I can assure you that whether we want to admit it or not, this is a very real thing and it is affecting our families and those we love. If you would like to be a part of this study, let me know and I will buy you a book. The reading is easy and not many pages each month. (10 or 11 pages or so.) As I said, if you would like to study with us, or would just like more information, let me know. We study together next on May 9th at 5:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room.

NEWEST SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

This new group got off to a wonderful start on April 18th. We are studying the book entitled *How to Read the Bible with Understanding*. We begin the evening together at 5:00 p.m. and promise to have you on your way by 7:30 p.m. so that you and your family can get ready for the events of the new work and school week. The study guide is easy to read and the questions that are asked are thought provoking. Please bring any thoughts and questions you have to the group! If you would like to join us please let us know and we will get a book to you. If you have any questions about the cell group, please contact Pastor or Mellissa Boswell. s/Mellissa Boswell

SAVE THE DATE:
Vacation Bible School
June 14-18, 2021
8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
This will be an in-person event

A REMINDER

St. Paul writes, *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.* (Philippians 2:3-5) As we strive to continue to be able to participate in the worship services together in the same space, please keep in mind the encouragement of the Apostle Paul as he calls upon us to be humble and consider the needs of others more than our own. Coming to church or Sunday School or Bible Study or Midweek Religion Classes with any suspicion of having or being symptomatic or asymptomatic of COVID 19 not only puts other people at risk, but it puts the ministry of the whole church at risk. If you think you have or display symptoms of COVID 19 or have been exposed to someone who has COVID 19, please stay home. If you have the least suspicion about this I would encourage you to visit with your personal physician.

SAVE THE DATE:
Donuts with Dad - 8:30 a.m. - MPR
Father's Day Banquet - 11:30 a.m. - FAC
June 20, 2021

PERMANENT LOGIN INFORMATION FOR LIVE STREAMED SERVICES ON VARIOUS PLATFORMS

FaceBook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/St-Paul-Lutheran-Church-The-Grove-109288640704387/> This is an updated address to get you there in case you are not already on FaceBook and want to watch the service without having to sign up for FaceBook.

YouTube permanent address <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCXYIcwW-U5ZaF5m2vYn8vw>

Vimeo on our Website address <http://www.stpaulthegrove.org> Then click on the Vimeo button, the little "V" at the top right hand corner of the page and you will be hooked up for the live stream of the service. You can also go there to watch archived services from the past as well.

Nursery (1-3 year old) Sunday School News

By: Faye Morrow and Mary Thoe

We would like to recognize the students who have faithfully attended Sunday School for the first part of this year. Due to the ice/snow storm in February, no one had perfect attendance for that month; however, the following students had perfect attendance for the months indicated:

Asher Boswell -- January

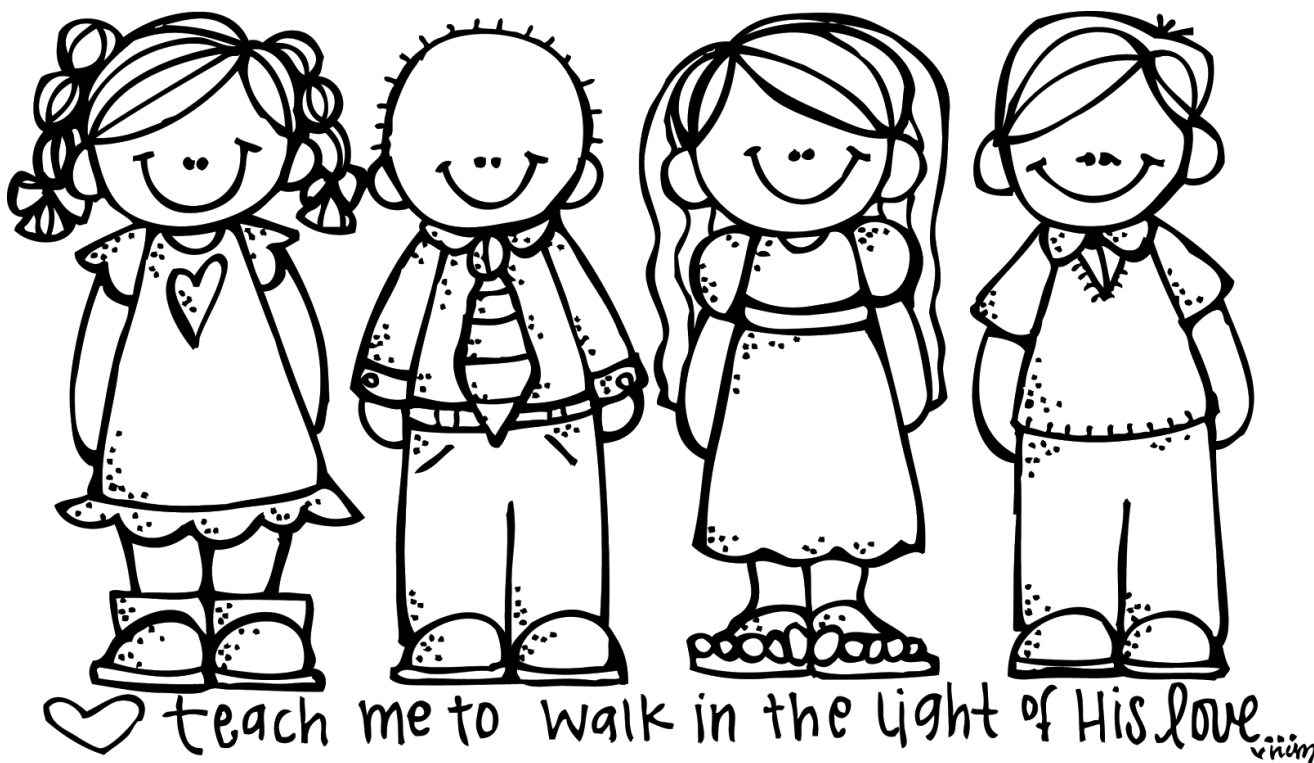
Lydia Morrow – January & March

Evelynn Penny – January & March

Julia Morrow – January & March

Oliver Watson -- March

We have been averaging 6-8 children each Sunday, so if you have a 1 to 3-year-old, please feel free to drop them off for class so that you can enjoy adult Bible study and so that they can learn even more about Jesus' love for His littlest of lambs. Again, thank you for allowing us the privilege of spending an hour with your child each week, sharing Jesus' love.



ARCHIVED SERMONS ON THE WEB

Just to remind you, our services and sermons are posted on the web each week. Go to www.stpaulthegrove.org, click "Connect", click "Vimeo", and then click on the sermon you would like to see. If you have questions, please ask.

LYF NEWSLETTER

GAME NIGHTS

We held our third game night gathering and Bible Study on the 16th of April. We shared supper together while we continued our Bible Study entitled "Motivated by Love". It is a Bible study that is teaching us leadership skills as we learn how to share our faith with other people, even as we hone our communication skills in many areas of life. Following the Bible study we had a very competitive game of *Brain Games: The Game*. As we gather for our May game night and Bible Study Shaylei Wrisk is going to bring and teach us how to play *Unstable Unicorns*. That will be on May 8th after we get everything lined up for the Banquet in honor of Moms everywhere. I encourage all of you to join us for this fun time together, that I do believe we can do safely, while still enjoying our brothers and sisters in Christ.

It was also decided, as we gathered last, to host the Annual Mother's Day Banquet. The plan is to serve Pulled Pork Sandwiches, potato salad, pork and beans and the trimmings. LYF members, we will gather at the church at 9:00 a.m. on May 8th to get everything set up and decorated and to make the goody bags to share with our moms. The meal will be prepared so we won't have to worry about that part of the event.

SAVE THE DATE:
Church Picnic
Third Sunday of July
July 18, 2021 – All Day Long
It will be an in-person event

HOPE PREGNANCY CENTER BABY BOTTLE FUND RAISER

Our LWML is going to participate in this fund raiser for Hope Pregnancy Center in Temple and Killeen this year as they give you the opportunity to fill Baby Bottles with money. Funds raised through the Baby Bottles help Hope Pregnancy Center minister to teens, women, men and their families! This campaign is an easy way to teach children the importance of giving back to the community and an opportunity to share with them the importance of supporting LIFE! We will have the Baby Bottles out and ready to be filled on Mother's Day, May 9th.



LWML

Lutheran Women *in Mission*

By: Amy Velasquez

Next LWML Bible Study/Social Meeting:

Our next Bible Study/Meeting is on May 18th at 6:30pm in the multi-purpose room. Bible study will be “Life is Like Swiss Cheese” by Linda Guteres from the Spring Quarterly page 20. All our meetings are back to being in person and we continue to practice social distancing. These social meetings are a wonderful way for us ladies to study the Lord’s Word, share a meal, and have fellowship time with each other. If it has been a while since you have attended, please consider joining us, we miss you! If you have never attended and are interested, know that you are welcome and feel free to attend!

Abounding in *HOPE*. Lutheran Women in Mission are bold to declare we are:

*H*eld by Christ,
*O*bedient to His calling,
*P*erfected by His promise,
*E*ncouraged to share.



May Mission Project:

Hope Pregnancy Center- Fill the Baby Bottles. We will be collecting monetary donations on May 9th following our worship services. Cash, change, and checks are welcome. If you are donating by check, please make it out to LWML as we donate all funds in one full sum to the Hope Pregnancy Center.

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:13-14

Upcoming Event:

LWML will be hosting the yearly New Member/Conformation/Graduation dinner. The dinner will be on May 30th at 11:30pm in the FAC. We will have a sign-up sheet available starting Sunday May 2nd. Please sign up so that we can get an accurate idea of how many will attend.

“Worship the LORD with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.” Psalm 100:2

