

Church Contributions

During this time when we are unable to gather and worship, the expenses of the congregation continue. Salaries still must be paid, benefits must continue, and utilities still continue.

Although we are no longer gathering together on Sunday mornings, please remember that your regular contributions are still very much appreciated.

While we are absent from each other, please send in your weekly contributions in the mail to the address below:

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
1320 Bath Ave.
Ashland, KY 41101
Attn. Finance Committee**

If you chose not to send your contributions by mail, please write your check each week and set it aside to place in the offering plate when we do return together.

God will see us all through these difficult times, and in Him we place our trust.

David Hill
Treasurer

Is This a New Age of Unease?

It seems that we have embarked upon a new "age of unease" in the world. I have been struck how many times in reading about world and local events recently the phrase "we are in uncharted waters" has come up. Whether we are talking about COVID-19, the sluggish economy or the potential food shortages creating discontent among people, we seem to be living in world circumstances of our own creation where it has become increasingly difficult for us to know how to choose well and live in the world.

Of course there is always a lot of blame going around: Democrats blame Republicans; conservatives blame liberals. But few have meaningful answers and solutions that we know can and will work.

And then there is advice. Everyone has advice. Most of the time it is impossible to do what we are advised to do even if one assumes the advice is good.

How does one live in the new age of unease? The letters and writings of St. Paul offer a threefold solution to the problem of the new age of unease in which we are living: "*faith, hope, and love.*" St. Paul wrote in I Corinthians 13: "*So faith, hope, and love abide, these three.*" Faith, Hope, and Love are the Christian's threefold-weapons in the face of anxiety and despair. The Christian understands first and foremost that the evil one desires more than anything else than to create in human beings anxiety and despair.

The Christian also understands that the work of God in his or her life is the opposite of anxiety and despair, namely faith, hope, and love!

How does God do this? God works faith, hope, and love in our hearts through is Holy Word and the Holy Sacraments. And where do we encounter God's Word and the Holy Sacraments in our lives? In the worship of the Christian people – in other words, by attending church: when the doors are open or tuning in through Youtube and Facebook while we are encouraged to "shelter-in-place."

Facing a time of increasing unease in our lives and in the world is not easy. It underscores the importance of making time for God in our lives by our participation in worship and partaking of Holy Communion when offered.

In times of my personal moments of despair and anxiety, the worship of the people of God has been where I have found God bestowing faith, hope, and love on me. Where and how does God bestow faith, hope and loving on you?

Yours, being lifted up by our Savior in: *faith, hope, and love!*
Pastor Kloha

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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Rev. Mark A. Kloha *Pastor*
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(606) 325-1919 *home*
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Mission Statement

*"Sharing the one thing
we all need."*

Radio Ministry

"When You Need a Friend"

Every Sunday morning, Pastor Kloha shares God's Word with our Community. Tune in on WTCR 103.3 FM at 9:45 am.

Parking Notice:

Please do not block or impede access to the garage or entrance to the apartment in the rear of the church out of courtesy to the tenant.

Receive St. Paul's Chronicles by Email

If you're interested in receiving the e-newsletter, please send your email address to:
stpaulsashland@gmail.com

Copies are always available to pick up on the back credenza.

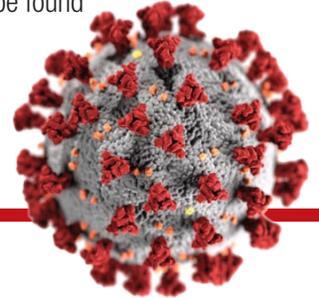
For information about, or to submit articles for upcoming newsletters, please contact:

Megan Ramey-Keelin
rutabaga1017@hotmail.com
(606) 571-1605

SPLC Online Services During COVID-19

In-church worship services are currently canceled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. However, we will be sharing videos of services on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsashland/>) and YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUK8JSVn5rdl-olQZ6Zi-Zw>). Additionally, Pastor Kloha shares God's Word "When You Need a Friend" with our Community every Sunday morning on WTCR 103.3 FM at 9:45 am. (Please note that some of our church members have heard this aired earlier at 9:30 am.) Supplemental service materials to follow along can be found on our Facebook video postings and are emailed via the newsletter list.

Please watch our Facebook page for updates and keep an eye out for emails from us for more information.



STEWARDSHIP

Do We See Ourselves as OWNERS or MANAGERS of God's Creation?

Welcome to the month of Yam! Wait a minute, you might say. Yam is not one of the twelve months of the year! And you are right, but if you reverse those three letters you have the month of May. You can have some fun reversing words, like your name or the names of others or whatever triggers your imagination.

However, we sometimes get important things reversed and that is not good. For example, we Americans often think of ourselves as "owners" instead of "managers." But that runs contrary to what the Bible clearly teaches in passages like Psalm 24:1 which states that: *"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."* The garden belonged to God, but He chose to have Adam work the garden and take care of it. If Adam would have thought that the garden belonged to him, he would have reversed the truth.

If we are not clear on the proper distinction between owner and manager we will have major struggles with Christian stewardship. We will conclude that all the things we surround ourselves with belong to us and, therefore, we can use them in any way we choose. That assumption is a misconception of what the Bible teaches. It is also opposed to the first Article of the Apostles' Creed which says: *"I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth!"* We could also add: "and owner" between "Maker" and "of."

For several decades our church has defined ***Christian Stewardship as the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing (NOT owning) all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.*** That definition clearly distinguishes the important difference between owning and managing.

So, in this month of Yam, oops, May, resolve to grow your understanding and practice of what it means to be a Christian steward. There is an old saying that *"April showers bring May flowers."* During this Easter season with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit we can grow like beautiful flowers that give witness to the beauty and glory of our Father in heaven.

May your stewardship give Glory to God!!



Please consider supporting Christ's Kids through these programs:



Kroger Community Rewards

Enter GG605 for St. Paul's Lutheran Church

under Community Rewards, and automatically get credited to our account when you use your Kroger card.



Shoparoo Download the app and select "Christ's Kids Learning Center" as your school. "Roo"

points are awarded for each receipt and will be accumulated for cash rewards for CKLC.



Amazon Smile Start at smile.amazon.com and select St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ashland, KY as

your charitable organization. Your selection will be kept and future purchases can result in a donation credited to us from Amazon.



Thank You!

Thanks to the youth for the wonderful care packets for Easter and the Sunday School for Easter cards. They were especially appreciated during this time away from our Church family.

The 2019-20 is officially over, but we will have some activities to give closure to the year when allowed. If guidelines allow, we will invite the children back on June 25 for a fun day, to see their friends, and collect their things. The next day, Friday, June 26 at 6pm, we will have a simple graduation for those going on to kindergarten, with minimum attendance. We thank all who have showered us with prayers and support. This has helped make us very successful program that we hope can continue. Our planned opening day for children for the next school year is August 10.

A STONE'S THROW AWAY A Note from Ruth

Dear St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

It has been such a blessing to worship online with you even from Hong Kong! Thank you for continuing to reach people with God's life giving word week after week. The world needs it now more than ever.

Also, we would normally have sent you a thank you note in the mail by now, but with everything as it is and everyone being home and online, we wanted to write you here to THANK YOU for the beautiful gift of your song ("Welcome to the Family") for Suzie on her baptism day. This has always been a favorite song and baptismal tradition of mine (Ruth) and I was instantly brought to tears as we watched your beautiful video! We even shared the video with our church congregation here! What a wonderful testimony to how big and wide Christ's church reaches!

Thank you, thank you, thank! We LOVE you, our family, so much and cannot wait for the day Suzie can meet you face to face!

With all our love,
Ruthie, Lyman and Suzie



Help Thy Neighbor Pantry

St. Paul's LWML has established a food & personal items pantry to help our members with toiletries, personal care items, cleaning products, and food which is located in the storage closet in the basement.

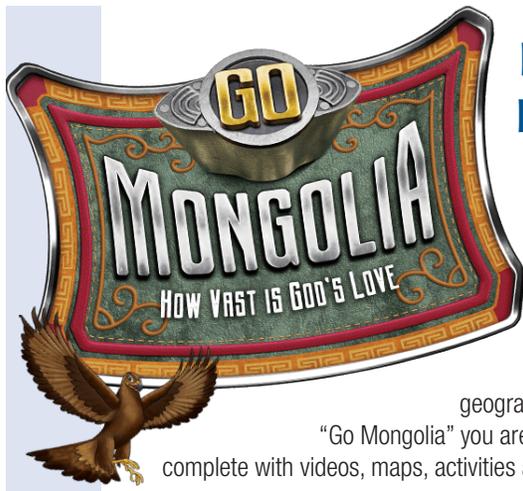
We encourage everyone to participate and keep our shelves stocked! Non-perishable food, personal items, cleaning items, etc are all needed.

Anyone in need is encouraged to help themselves.

St. Paul's Card Shop

The Card Shop is located outside the adult classroom on the second floor of the education building. New cards sympathy baptism and wedding cards are available. Please support the Youth Group in our congregation by purchasing a 50 cent card.

one message: **Christ!**
His love is here for you!



Bring the Far East into Your Living Room

LHM offers a resource for children "Gospel Adventures" which is a FREE, five-day journey to a country full of remarkable people,

geography, culture, and eagles. With

"Go Mongolia" you are taken on an online adventure, complete with videos, maps, activities and so much more.

Right about now you may be wondering how to fill your child's hours of learning at home with fruitful content. That's where this year's Gospel Adventures: Mongolia can help. It's a five-day journey to the other side of the earth.

Recently, we heard from Alexis about LHM's FREE online journey. She said, "I had no idea LHM offered an online program for children! Since we've been working on our school work while at home we have added Gospel Adventures to our curriculum! Thank you for sharing, it's awesome!" **We agree! It is awesome!**

Situated on the other side of the globe between Russia and China, Mongolia is vast in size and sparse in people. (It's the world's least

densely populated country!) Famed for the conquering exploits of Genghis Khan, Mongolia is a land of wide-open spaces but close-knit communities.

With Go Mongolia! you are provided with five days of online adventure that touch on numerous aspects of this captivating region. These adventures in Mongolia take place through short articles, videos, maps, colorful graphs, hands-on activities, eye-catching charts, identification boxes, questions for discussion, and more. All these pieces work together to highlight the country's ethnic groups, ways of living, religion, economy, culture and customs, government, language, history, and other features that make Mongolia so vast and diverse.

Drawing inspiration from Ephesians 3:17-19 and letting the immensity of Mongolia illustrate it, students will learn about God and "how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is." Student takeaways include a fresh awareness of the world's size and diversity as exhibited through Mongolian culture and its people. With this, they will gain a fresh appreciation of the work of the Gospel in their own lives and see better how God is at work in people's lives around the world.

This only scratches the surface of what this FREE, five-day online experience holds for children. You can access all the curriculum and videos by registering at www.gospeladventures.org.

LWML: Bloom and Grow! Devotion

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

Edelweiss, Edelweiss Every morning you greet me
Small and white clean and bright You look happy to meet me
Blossom of snow may you bloom and grow Bloom and
grow forever

Edelweiss, Edelweiss Bless my homeland forever.*

*Words and tune: Rodgers and Hammerstein

Congratulations if you were able to read those words without singing them or hear them as they were read to you without hearing the tune from "The Sound of Music." Please take some time to think of the significance of the small, white, snow-like flower called Edelweiss.

Edelweiss covers many of the higher areas in mountainous regions of Europe. It does not have a long life, but spreads its seed to produce more and more plants and flowers. The leaves of Edelweiss are soft and almost woolly feeling to the touch. The center of each bloom has yellow-colored flowerets.

So when are we, as Christians, like Edelweiss? It is our intention to walk on the higher ground as we model God's love and His expectations for His children. When we are soft and "wooly" by showing care and compassion, our families, churches, and communities take note. As flowers drop their seeds, so the Holy

Spirit plants seed in us. As these seeds are nurtured and grow into beautiful plants, so we are fed and strengthened on God's Word and the blessed Sacrament of Holy Communion as He has called us to be His through the water and Word of Holy Baptism. We can also feed the faith of those around us, no matter how old or new that faith may be.

The center, yellow-colored flowerets remind us of the opportunity we have to let God's light shine to us and then through us to those with whom we come in contact. Obviously, the fact that this small flower is white has some connections as well. We are white as snow because of the crimson blood of Jesus. Our sins are gone. We are free. While we may still live surrounded by sin as well as add to the sin in our world, we are also forgiven children of the Lord. We are washed clean in His eyes and given eternal life in heaven with all the saints who have gone before us.

So, bloom and grow. Be in the Word so that the seeds of modeling God's love that you drop are pure, strong, and seen by others.

Prayer: Dear Lord, You have created us to share Your love and Your Word with those around us. Help us to be bold and bright so that we attract others to You. Move us to bloom and grow so our lives glorify You. In the holy name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Bloom and Grow! Written by Katy Gifford, Falls City, Nebraska
Published by Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 2015



MAY 2020

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

If you would like to include information for upcoming calendars, please notify Megan Ramey-Keelin.

Sunday School 9:30 am
Adult Bible Study 9:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:45 am

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
LWML will not meet again until September	LWML Spring Rally for the 18th has been re-scheduled to fall due to COVID-19 restrictions.					
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
In-person Worship services cancelled. Watch online on our Facebook page or YouTube!	Christ's Kids Preschool CLOSED for the year due to COVID-19 restrictions 			Preschool Board Meeting & Council Meeting Cancelled due to COVID-19		Ladies Bible Study "Women of the Bible" Cancelled due to COVID-19
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
In-person Worship services cancelled. Watch online on our Facebook page or YouTube!						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
In-person Worship services cancelled. Watch online on our Facebook page or YouTube!						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
In-person Worship services cancelled. Watch online on our Facebook page or YouTube!						
31						