

ST. PAUL'S SCOPE

Faithful and Welcoming Church

Volume 47, Issue 6



June 2020

From Our Pastor ~ Earl Crecelius

“Opening up” is beginning to happen, it seems - businesses opening up, congregations coming back together. And there are lots of questions – when? How? With what precautions? For how long? These are good questions that we should work to provide our best provisional answers. Right now at St. Paul’s we’re working to provide those answers. But there’s another question that keeps nagging me, and that’s this: have I “opened up”

- To the fact that nothing in this world lasts, that all the plans and assumptions I had about life are so fragile that they can be totally disrupted by something as tiny as a virus?
- To the fact that many things I’d thought were oh so important were really distractions? And what, or who, were they distractions from?
- To what makes for a truly happy life?
- To the fact that my times really are in God’s hands, so that I really can let go and trust that He provides everything I need?
- To the fact that the Holy Spirit is at work in all circumstances, so that in every circumstance I can choose how to respond - to be either drawn toward, or away from, Christ?
- To the fact that we really do live by grace alone (so we don’t have to be anxious about our qualifications), through faith alone (so we don’t need to be anxious about our good or bad works), in Christ alone?

Lots of questions, the answers to which I’m not sure. But I am sure of this: that with Christ, heaven opened up. Heaven opened up with angel choirs at His birth; with the Holy Spirit on Him at His baptism and on believers at Pentecost; to receive Him at His ascension. The very way to heaven was opened to us by Christ in His death and resurrection.

For believers, we knew much of this already – in our heads. Perhaps now, after this quarantine experience, we’ll know it more deeply in our hearts. It really would be a shame to have wasted this quarantine time. It really would be a great blessing to have our eyes and hearts opened up to the real way, the real truth, and the real life.

25 “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?”

26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? 28 And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’

32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

34 “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

(Mt. 6:25-34)

Pastor Earl

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Scope Deadline

The *deadline* for articles to be included in the July SCOPE is the 23rd of June.





CELEBRATION DURING COVID

Working in education as an interpreter for over 13 years I have performed over 50+ graduation ceremonies from Universities, high schools, and even a Pre-K or two. My role is to pass along the pomp and circumstance. You know, the speeches, musical selections, and announcements provided; especially that vital name of a student who is being recognized for their achievements. I do this so that full access is afforded for EVERYONE present at this special occasion. Considering that role, I find it interesting that it has come into play as well in my position as a youth minister. Especially when touching base with parents and students alike. I'm still passing along full access, just this time with the vital, long-awaited name being Jesus Christ. So with these thoughts I also ponder the messy ministry that has become celebrating during COVID. With the school year coming to an unceremonious end, most likely via email or voicemail; Possibly with a YouTube video to watch, many are left sitting afterwards staring at a dark screen and wondering what ELSE to do to celebrate those they love.

I can't help but think of the first disciples hiding away as they were persecuted for their faith. Are we like those mentioned in the later books of the New Testament, here in 2020 hiding away from illness and pursuing a stronger faith in Jesus Christ? I'm not to compare, as each of us is on our own journey, but consider this: Will 2020 be like any other year? NO! In a way, that in itself is an awesome blessing. To watch how my friends and family navigate these unfamiliar waters to a safer shore is truly a beautiful thing. Some families are ZOOMing weekly get-togethers, happy hours, even trivia nights. Livestreaming church services, partying via FB Live, all levels of educators working through google meet to see their students faces-heck even children's Sunday School is now available online. As far as graduation is concerned, others are socially-distancing 6ft+ apart in their backyards enjoying a small, intimate family bbq to celebrate their students' success. Signs are put out, advertisements printed, parades planned, and flowers ordered. We can still celebrate. These moments of celebration are terrific and wonderful, not to be discounted or dismissed for 2020 just because COVID-19 quarantines us all. It is in this struggle that we find our strength. That strength lies in our faith and trust that God has not left us. Recall Isaiah 41:10: "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."

In this time of celebration, I hope you hold tight to the knowledge that Jesus Christ died for you and your beloved family. Each and every one of you. Each tirelessly working healthcare hero, each student or recent graduate *along with* the educators who wish they could congratulate them with a sturdy handshake or hug, each parent who blustered their way through hot-mess homeschooling, even the masked fast food workers ready to serve. Please, pray without ceasing, and trust the Grace that God provides you will be seen in your actions and felt by your family. Stop worrying. They know you celebrate them, and that honor is reflected in your family's love.

Let's all be blessed in this mess and work towards a brighter, safer shore. If we stick together then when we finally do have the chance to clasp hands, high-five, and even group hug it's going to be crazy in the pews! Looking forward to arriving there with you.

-VA

p.s.

During our Easter "egging" I added this note for the parents and felt that is applied for this too:

I just wanted to drop you a little note of encouragement during this celebratory season. As a parent myself I can say the "struggle is real". Between homeschooling, job loss, empty shelves, and social distancing it's been a pretty wild ride. One thing that stays certain during these uncertain times is the sun comes in the morning... each day! Every day is a new chance for our families to grow stronger, more faithful, and healthier-together. To persevere and replenish our own spirits. Please take time during this COVID-crisis to give God your first moments, as he blesses you with ALL of your moments. Start off your day with a devotional or listening to a sermon online (Pastor Earl has plenty posted!). Aside from meeting with God, remember to take some time-outs for yourself as well, because we all know you "can't pour from an empty cup"! I've asked your students to read from the book of Luke when Jesus struggles, this would be a great opportunity to discuss the scriptures together as a family this Easter. Lastly, when reading-and in life-don't stop at the struggle. Keep reading-and keep going- and you'll see that the Son truly does come in the morning. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and if you ever need to reach out and talk, vent, or pray together please feel free to contact us.

FROM ST PAUL'S REOPENING COMMITTEE

St Paul's is carefully planning to reopen Sunday services! We wanted to communicate with the church and let you know we are not giving in to the COVID-19 virus, we are working toward meeting together again as soon as we can. As we do this, we are keeping the safety of parishioners priority one. We are working to provide services on Sunday mornings while maintaining Social Distancing supported by measures to keep our group safe in worship. We also need to stay compliant with Illinois state requirements, which is why we will not be able to come back together as a congregation until we are allowed to gather at least 50 per service—Phase 4 of the state reopening plan. While the exact method of organizing is still in work, it will involve RSVPing to the church your planned attendance at a service. Each person will be expected to bring and wear a mask, but we will have masks on hand just in case, along with hand sanitizer for those who forget. Stay tuned, as we will update you when we have the method set, and in advance of restarting worship services.



Birthday Thank You

Proverbs 15:15

The cheerful heart has a continual feast!

Thank you to each of you for sending me beautiful birthday cards and kind words. You made my heart very cheerful. May you all feel as loved as you made me feel.

*Bless you,
Mary Wandling*



**Hospitalized
This Past Month**

Jeanine Eckenrode

Food Pantry Needs



The Freeburg Food & Clothing Pantry's "Meal a Month", a "Needs Menu" (donations) will be collected on the second Sunday of each month "Monthly Collection Sunday." Needs for the

month of June are: ketchup, mustard, pickles, relish, cake mix, jelly, hamburger helper

Food Collection Sunday is **June 14** The Pantry appreciates your donations and support!!!

The food pantry **will be open** on it's scheduled dates with a drive thru system. Proof of residency is required.



*Our Deepest
Sympathy*

Patricia Sue Mitchell
December 10, 1938 - May 25, 2020

Mother of David Mitchel

Scriptures For Worship In June

Date	Psalter	OT	Epistle	Gospel
6/7*	8	Gen. 1:1-2	2 Cor. 13:11-13	Mt. 28:16-20
6/14	100	Gen. 18:1-15	Ro. 5:1-8	Mt. 9:35-10:8
6/21	86:1-10, 16-17	Gen. 21:8-21	Ro. 6:1b-11	Mt. 10:24-39
6/28	13	Gen. 22:1-14	Ro. 6:12-23	Mt. 10:40-42

*Trinity Sunday

**C. S. LEWIS CORNER –
THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS**

In Letter #29, Screwtape is advising Wormwood to keep his patient’s mind filled with “what if’s”, to make plans for all kinds of things that may or may not happen because that will distract the patient from his immediate duty.

“The point is to keep him feeling that he has something, other than the Enemy and courage the Enemy supplies, to fall back on, so that what was intended to be a total commitment to duty becomes honeycombed all through with little unconscious reservations.”

**COMING TOGETHER
AT ST. PAUL’S**

The Council is working on details of how and when we’ll get together for worship, and will let you know as soon as plans are finalized. Watch your email for this, as things seem to be developing rapidly! It’s our hope that we’ll soon provide live-streaming of our services, so that folks at home can participate without taking unnecessary risks. Please know that whether you choose to attend or not, you are loved and respected by your brothers and sisters in Christ.



**Kenny’s
Cans**

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Effective June 1, 2020, I will no longer be collecting the cans from Freeburg Recycling Center and from the alley at the back of St. Paul’s Church.

Anyone interested in keeping the program, may contact me at 618-719-6696.

Thank You,
Jerry Ruhmann

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF



- | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 6/01 Randy Neff | 6/06 Julie Menn | 6/15 Sherry Salvatore | 6/23 Ryan Kuhn |
| 6/02 Richard Beisiegel | 6/07 Beth Heppermann | Tenley Heppermann | Logan Rhutasel |
| Sharon Luebbers | Lacy Niebruegge | Payton Lyon | 6/24 Hunter Oeltjen |
| Karen Neff | 6/08 Ellen Walker | 6/17 Dane Brueggemann | Tim Tritt |
| 6/03 Kelton George | Brooke Dobler | Elliott Crowder | 6/25 Emil Kromat |
| 6/04 Wyatt Smith | 6/09 Katie Young | Connor Schopp | Dale Lickenbrock |
| 6/05 David Niebruegge | 6/10 Diane Mueth | 6/18 Jim Tadlock | 6/26 Debbie Ross |
| Floyd Weber | 6/11 Jenny Hummert | 6/19 Carol Harbaugh | 6/27 Sebastian Skaer |
| Karen Gipson | 6/12 Joe Blumberg Jr. | 6/20 Michael Brazelton | 6/28 Gary Kuklinski |
| 6/06 Ramon Matchett | Kate Hughes | 6/21 Jed Rippelmeyer | 6/29 Brittany Beisiegel |
| | 6/13 Corinne Price | 6/22 Nolan Shook | Herschel Parrish Jr. |
| | 6/14 Cheryl Emge | 6/23 Carol Casperson | 6/30 David Luebbers |

Services pending. Watch your email for updates.

Sunday Volunteer Schedule



High School Graduation

Time/Date	Council
8:00 June 7	Sandy Dickens
	Brian Rippelmeyer
June 14	Gregg Haege
	Tami Hughes
June 21	Gregg Haege
	Tami Hughes
June 28	Scott Weber
	Stan Niemann
July 5	Scott Weber
	Stan Niemann
10:15 June 7	Mark Vernier
	Buck Horine
June 14	Pam Kramer
	Julie Rickert
June 21	Pam Kramer
	Julie Rickert
June 28	Amy Walton
	Lynn Gipson
July 5	Amy Walton
	Lynn Gipson

Paige Nowak
Nolan Reinneck
Howie Oldehoeft
Payton Lyon
Laren Ingold
Maddie Mense
Claire Walker
Shea Nail
Anna Miller
Chloe Schanuel

Nick Borja
Isabelle Elmer
Ainslie Parrish
Elliott Crowder
Katelyn Vymola
Jess Shepherd
Maggie Shultz
Cole Schopp
Brynne Sanders



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.**



ISAIAH 41:10



Council had its monthly meeting on May 19th with about half of its members meeting face to face in the ministry building while the other members attended via zoom teleconferencing. Still trying to determine when we will start back up with church services and just how we will regulate and abide by the restrictions put into place by our governor. Due to the Covid 19 not much to report on from any of the committees, although the pastor search committee reported that they are continuing with creating our churches profile and getting closer to submitting it to the conference. Continued to work on filling all positions for standing and special committees, which is also very challenging to do when there is no face to face contact at church services where individuals can be approached. Hopefully next month we will back to normal if not closer to normalcy.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Weber

Flag Day June 14



Second Mile Benevolence Offering

The Benevolence offerings that you mark on your envelopes each month are Second Mile offerings for special mission projects.

Our **April** offering for **Pastor's Discretionary Fund** was \$ 265.00 Thank You!!!



DuBois Center

**JUNE BENEVOLENCE & SUNDAY
SCHOOL OFFERING**

*My Hero Is
My Dad*

**BABY SITTER
ON CALL**

The following is a list of St. Paul's youth who are interested in baby sitting. Please keep them in mind when you need someone.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Sabryn Boike	21	719-5349
Brittany Kaiser	27	803-8013
Lindsey Mank	23	233-0678
Maggie Matchett	17	719-9299
Carmen Stein	16	539-7011

The Church Calendar—June 2020

Normal Sunday Schedule

8:00 am & 10:15 am Worship

9:05 am Sunday School and Fellowship Hour

First Sunday of the Month—Communion at both services

All JUNE activities are pending due to the VIRUS RESTRICTIONS

June 14 - Flag Day

June 21-Sunday: **Happy Father's Day**

June 23 - Scope Deadline

Happy Father's Day



ST. PAUL'S SCOPE published by
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
210 West White Street
Freeburg, IL 62243

St. Paul's SCOPE ~ June 2020

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**Faithful and Welcoming
Church**

Worship Services:

Sunday 8:00 & 10:15 AM
(Nursery Care Available)
Sunday School 9:05 AM

