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St. Paul Weekly Newsletter for

June 30th, 2024

**Handling Freedom Responsibly**

In the lower 48 how fast would you drive down a highway that had no posted speed limit? What would inform your decision? The cross of Christ has removed all the speed limit signs on the road to salvation. We’re fully forgiven. God isn’t keeping score anymore. We are no longer slaves to the law or to sin. How, then, shall we live? That’s the question, the question of responsibility. Freedom doesn’t set us free from responsibility. Just ask a veteran. Just ask Jesus or Paul. Choosing how to live when you are truly free isn’t always easy. We need the wisdom of the Spirit and the community of faith. Join us this Sunday as we explore “Handling Freedom Responsibly.”

**Last Sunday**

Worship Attendance: # 35

Thank you for your faithfulness! Working towards our goal of 50 in worship weekly!

***Updates for our faith family:***

Due to the roof conditions, mold and budget constraints we needed to lay off Jennifer in the office. She has found work, and her family is now receiving benefits for her husband’s disability. Please keep them in your prayers. Pastor Dave has assumed the office responsibilities. Please be patient as takes on this new responsibility.

**Office hours** will continue from 9am -11am; Tuesday – Friday. Due to office conditions Pastor Dave will be working out of his home office at other times.

Please be aware that Pastor Dave has been called to serve for **jury duty** for the months of July and August. His ability to answer phone calls and to be available depends on if he is actively serving at the time. Please leave a message and he will return your call as soon as possible. This will also affect church office hours for July and August.

Our **Roof Appeal** to other LCMC congregations has been amazing, thanks be to God. Over thirty churches have responded with prayer support and financial support for our roof project for over $35,000. Please take time to thank God for this amazing outpouring of support.

Looking for active or retired Coast Guard members to work the **Welcome Aboard Fair** on the Coast Guard Base, August 24, 2024, 2:00pm-5:00pm. Need you to sit at our table where we will provide brochures and answer any questions Coast Guard members may have. Please contact Pastor Dave to serve in this welcoming ministry.

Greg Koester from Bloomington, IL will be **visiting Kodiak**, August 2-4. He will worship with us on Sunday, August 4th and present a check to us from his congregation for our roof fund. If you can house him, feed him, or take him fishing please let Laurie know.

**This Week at St. Paul**

**Friday, June 28th**

5:30pm – **LifeGroup adult Bible study** in the “Lounge Room” in Springhill Hall. All are welcome members and friends of St. Paul.

6:30pm – **AA meeting** in the Fireside Room.

**Saturday, June 29th**

Pray for our Sunday worship services.

Pray that St. Paul members express their freedom by going to worship.

**Sunday, June 30th**

10:00am– **Worship**. Please note that we will be worshiping in Springhill Hall; use the side door that faces the church building.

11:00am – Fellowship time after worship.

11:15am --  **LifeGroup adult Bible study** in the Fireside Room.

**Wednesday, July 3rd**

7:00am – **Prayer breakfast** in Springhill Hall. Gather to pray for our church, for our community, and for lifting up the needs of others. Anyone is welcome to cook! Setup for breakfast begins at 6:00. For more information contact Bill Barker at whbarker40@gmail.com.

**Thursday, July 4th –** Pray for our nation.

**Friday, July 5th**

5:30pm – **LifeGroup adult Bible study** in the “Lounge Room” in Springhill Hall. All are welcome members and friends of St. Paul.

6:30pm – **AA meeting** in the Fireside Room.

***Special Fellowship Events***

* July 14: Mac and Cheese Day.
* July 28: National Chicken Wing Day.

***Ongoing Fellowship Opportunities***

* Start your Sunday rest with fellowship time after Sunday worship.
* LifeGroup, our adult Bible study class, meets after worship. There is also a LifeGroup meeting on Fridays at 5:30; contact Pastor Dave for more information. LifeGroup study sheets are available.
* Early birds are welcome at our Wednesday prayer breakfasts in Springhill Hall. Breakfast is served at 7:00. Anybody is welcome to cook! For details, contact Bill Barker at whbarker40@gmail.com.
* If you want to join our book club, contact Lynn Devlin at jldevlin@gci.net. All are welcome.
* Volunteers are welcome to assist with worship services! Let Pastor Dave know or email the church office at stpaulkodiak@gmail.com.
* If you would like to provide flowers for the altar in celebration of a special time in your own or someone else’s life or to mark a memorial, add your name to the flower chart on the wall or let Debbi Canavan know at dcanavan@gci.net.

***Community Service***

* St. Paul volunteers cook for the Kodiak Area Mentorship Program and the Brother Francis Shelter. To sign up or for more information, contact Karen Winkler at 907-942-1315 or karenwinkler2014@gmail.com.
* St. Paul’s Kim Miller Fund provides fuel oil to households in need in partnership with Petro Marine Services. To make a tax-deductible donation to the Fund, make a contribution to St. Paul and include a note that it is for the Kim Miller Fund.

***Spiritual Growth***

* **LifeGroup**, our adult **Bible study** class, meets after worship and Fridays at 5:30pm.
* **Prayer Breakfast** meets Wednesday’s at 7:00am (come at 6am to help cook).
* Christian faith is strengthened when we make it an “every day” practice that involves daily moments of reflection and listening for God. If you would like a suggested course of personal study and prayer during the week, see the handout “Daily Walk on the Rock” on the same table as the LifeGroup study sheets and bulletins.
* **Worshiping** weekly is something we get to do. We worship every Sunday at 10:00am and other special times.

**Going Deeper- Galatians 2:19 – 3:4**

We are remembering our history this week, grateful for our founding fathers and the soldiers who fought to gain our freedom as an independent country. It was a costly and risky endeavor. But the farmers and townspeople listened to their hearts wanting to break free from unfair governing. They took the responsibility necessary to accomplish their freedom.

Our lives as Christians can parallel that struggle. However, it was God, not us, who paid the price for our freedom from the slavery of sin by raising a Son to model our intended life and then, at such an early age, sacrificing his life for the ultimate ransom, paid in full.

By daring to believe that we are forgiven as a gift of grace, we now have the responsibility to “sin no more.” In order to do this, God has provided his Spirit to live within us. The Spirit calls and enlightens us, opening the way to believing that God is who he says he is, and that he will do what he says he will do. The Spirit not only calls us to believe but also provides faith itself. Sin will search out our weakness and seek to lure us back into bondage. With God as our courage and strength, we will rise above this snare and live in true freedom.

What struggles do you face? How can you get some relief from your burden? How are you imprisoned by the Old Testament laws? How does Jesus give you both freedom and responsibility?

Read Philippians 4:13, Matthew 6:25-26, and 2 Corinthians 2:14. In what ways can we focus on Jesus and others, and relieve the pressure we have put on ourselves?

There have been many times throughout my life when I didn’t think I could manage the crisis that appeared before me. But when I stop and pray for God’s wisdom, courage, and strength to guide me through the trouble and give me patience to withstand, he never fails me.

*Lord, I am free because of you. Thank you for forgiving me and my failings in life. I am so grateful for your love and compassion. Thank you for living inside me and giving me access to your Holy Spirit power to believe and trust in you. Help me to witness to others about your presence in my life. In your very holy name, Amen.*

**PRAYER CONCERNS: Please Pray for Health and Healing for…**

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| Bill and Ann Barker and their son Erin | Those with addictions to alcohol and drugs |
| Kim Smead | The Hansen family |
| Amanda Barta | Rose and Mike Dolph |
| Emer BajuclosJoe and Mary Beth Symonoski | Jim DevlinBill Vogt and Karen Winkler |
| Linda Covert-Mosier | Baby Evie |
| Ross Omlid | The family and friends of Larry Ellsworth |
| Lena | Sharon |
| Denise York | The Vogel family |
| Ava | The Cuello family |
| The family of Sawyer Cipolla | Karin Stahlhut |
| Matthew | Chastity |
| Liane Dierich-Erwin | Amy & Eric  |
| The family and friends of Lynn Bash | The family and friends of Charlotte Ferris |
| Jerry | Peace in the Middle East |
| Tim | Judy Starrett |
| George and Dria Holloway | George Lare and his family |
| Greg CulverSue DeversThe family of Darlene Wilson Pat Scheider  | All fishermen and other seafarers and the Coast GuardIrelynnSherry Ball |
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*If you would like to add or remove any name for prayer concerns, please contact the Church at the number and email given below or fill out a prayer request form in the church office.*

**Front Office Hours**

**The church office** is open from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Tuesday through Friday.

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