



St. Paul Weekly Newsletter for July 7th, 2024

Tenderness for Tough Times

Imagine this: you are in a dark, dirty Roman cell around the year 68 A.D. You are a condemned criminal who will soon be beheaded. What is going through your mind? If it were me, I can tell you I'd be despondent and completely focused on my circumstances. This Sunday, we find ourselves in Paul's second letter to Timothy. Paul is in the very predicament I described. He's about to be executed, yet he remains full of gratitude, focus, and encouragement. How can he do this? That's what we're focusing on as we worship together on Sunday: "Tenderness for Tough Times."

Last Sunday

Worship Attendance: 40

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

Updates for our faith family:

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.

Received word that **Jacque, Josh and baby Eleanor** are doing well! They are adjusting to the heat!!



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.

Just received a thank you from **Blessman International Ministry**. This is one of the ministries and missions that we support they're thanking us for our contribution of \$817.67 and they're thanking us that because of our support they can do ministry with the local children where they minister in South Africa. Your support allows them to provide basic needs like water and sanitation, participation in local sports programs and opportunities for faith development. Even though we're going through hard times ourselves we continue to reach out and support others as we always tithe past ourselves to other ministries. Thank you for your generous support

We also received a thank you from **Lutheran Disaster Assistance Fund** for our donation of \$817.67. This fund provides grants/donations to those impacted by natural disasters, floods, mudslides, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes and other natural disasters.

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.

“Just One More” We are encouraging and challenging our members and friends to worship just one more time each month. So, if you are not coming to worship, we encourage you to attend once a month. If you worship once a month, we're challenging you to go to two times a month, two times a month we're encouraging you to go to three times a month, three times a month we're encouraging you to go to four times a month. If you go every week right now we are so thankful for your participation.

One of our goals at Saint Paul's is to increase the depth of our spirituality by helping us grow closer to God. Most people want to deepen their spirituality and grow closer with God and a proven way of doing that is more frequent worship, increased prayer life, and reading God's word. When you are at worship, please pick-up one of our resources for spiritual growth. Each week we provide a seven-day devotional, “Daily Walk on the Rock” and a Bible study, “LifeGroup” that will put us in the word of God and prayer. We can do this St. Paul...”Just One More.”

This Week at St. Paul

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.

Saturday, July 6th

Pray for our Sunday worship services.

Pray for who you will invite to attend church with you.

Sunday, July 7th

10:00am – **Worship**. We are worshipping 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 10th

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.

Friday, July 12th

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- 2 Timothy 1:3-14

In times of personal troubles or worries, who or what do you focus on? Is God anywhere in the picture? I remember seeing a bumper sticker that said: "Why pray when you can worry?" Funny, in a way, I suppose. God probably comes in as a last resort for some people in times of trouble.

In Sunday's text, Paul is sitting in prison awaiting his fate: execution. Nevertheless, he writes a letter to Timothy, urging him not to be ashamed or afraid of testifying for the Lord. "Continue on as before," he says.

Paul could have focused on himself, but his mind was on the Kingdom agenda. In this case, the agenda was prepping Timothy to continue on with God's work.

When we find ourselves in a heap of trouble like Paul, how do we describe our thoughts and hopes? We would probably be seeking words of compassion and understanding for our predicament while raising the standard cry heard in our society today: "It wasn't my fault!"

Why don't we forget our personal problems, and begin reaching out to others in our community with the good news of our redemption through Christ? Why do we think only Pastor Dave of the Mission Team should focus on evangelism? Many of us are simply too timid, too worried about our image, or afraid of the other person's response.

In these tough economic times, there are countless people hurting. Food shelves, clinics and a host of other services are screaming for help. Many people are searching for a job or health insurance.

Hidden in the cancer of unemployment, lack of insurance, and broken relationships is a disease that also causes despair in prosperous times: loneliness. When hardships or personal problems beset us, we need to turn our focus from ourselves to the one who commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves. For many of us, this is easier said than done.

We are all in this together. Let's stop focusing on our differences with our church, our neighborhood, our community and our country, and instead reach out where we're needed without being prompted. Let's be like Paul and focus on being Christ's hands and feet in the world, making a difference and giving hope to those around us.

And take the time to pray. Pray for those who are helping, pray for those who sit alone day after day, pray for those who are hurting. Above all, focus on God.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Please Pray for Health and Healing for...

Bill and Ann Barker and their son Erin
Kim Smead
Amanda Barta

Those with addictions to alcohol and drugs
The Hansen family
Rose and Mike Dolph

Emer Bajuclos
 Joe and Mary Beth Symonoski
 Linda Covert-Mosier
 Ross Omlid
 Lena
 Denise York
 Ava
 The family of Sawyer Cipolla
 Matthew
 Liane Dierich-Erwin
 The family and friends of Lynn Bash
 Jerry
 Tim
 George and Dria Holloway
 Greg Culver
 Sue Devers
 The family of Darlene Wilson
 Pat Scheider
 Tony

Jim Devlin
 Bill Vogt and Karen Winkler
 Baby Evie
 The family and friends of Larry Ellsworth
 Sharon
 The Vogel family
 The Cuello family
 Karin Stahlhut
 Chastity
 Amy & Eric
 The family and friends of Charlotte Ferris
 Peace in the Middle East
 Judy Starrett
 George Lare and his family
 All fishermen and other seafarers
 and the Coast Guard
 Irelynn
 Sherry Ball
 Judy Main

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.

UNSUBSCRIBE: Send an email by [clicking here](#) and put "Unsubscribe from Newsletter" in the subject line.



St. Paul Lutheran Church

"Your Refuge from the Storm"

Daily Walk on the Rock

Week of July 7, 2024

1 Timothy 1:3-14; Isaiah 54:10-17

Monday

REVELATION 1

Apocalyptic writing (the unveiling of future events) is common for Jewish authors at this time in history. Through images and bizarre descriptions of death, they express their hope for the day that judgment will be rendered against evil and peace will come. But Revelation's main purpose is not to arouse speculation about the future, but to encourage Christians in every age to maintain their faith despite trials and opposition with confidence that they will share in Jesus' ultimate victory. Revelation is a series of scenes, culminating in the triumph of God. Who is the book of Revelation given to? Why (2)? To whom was the book of Revelation addressed (4)? What three things does Jesus do for us (5-6)? Are there times when you feel like giving up on Jesus? What truths bring you back?

Tuesday

REVELATION 2:1-17

What do you know about the church at Ephesus? (See Acts 19.) How might its strengths have been the cause of its failure? Why is repentance necessary for them? What problems is the church of Smyrna facing? How can they be both rich and poor? What does Jesus teach them about suffering? Has it been harder for you to live out your faith when you've been poor or when you've had enough money? Why? How are the Christians in Pergamum tested? Compromise is a problem in Pergamum. Some in the church tolerate those who teach and practice what Christ opposed. Then, as now, standing firm against the strong pressures and temptations of society is never easy, but not standing firm is deadly. Are there cultural influences or temptations that distract you from your faith in Christ? Put on the full armor of God to remain faithful (Ephesians 6:11).

Wednesday

REVELATION 2:18-29

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the church of Thyatira? What does the symbolic name "Jezebel" reveal about the woman in this church (see 2 Kings 9:7-37)? How does Jesus describe himself? What is he saying about himself? They could not hide from him, and we cannot hide from him (23). What do you think Jesus' promise in 26-27 means? What do you appreciate about that promise?

Thursday

REVELATION 3:1-13

What is the contrast between reputation and reality in the church in Sardis? The peoples' wealth and comforts cause them to die spiritually. They are no longer growing in their faith and have lost the passion to serve others. Could the same be said of our church? Of you? Why, or why not? What does the key of David open (7-8)? (Also see Isaiah 22:22-24 and Matthew 16:19.) How is the church in Philadelphia able to persevere? Describe its enemies. How does the reward fit the faithfulness (12)? What open doors has Christ placed before you? Which doors are closed? How have you responded to closed doors? What is the Holy Spirit saying to you right now?

Friday

REVELATION 3:14-22

What does the lukewarm description of the church in Laodicea say about the believers there (16)? How does the church view itself? Why the contrast? What does Jesus tell them to do (18)? What does this say about true wealth? In each of these letters, written to different churches, the believers are urged to listen and understand what has been written to them. Which one comes closest to your spiritual condition at this time? How are you going to respond? Spend time in prayer.

Saturday

REVELATION 4

Where does this scene actually take place? Who is the figure on the throne? (Note: 24 seems to represent all of God's people, coming from the 12 tribes before Christ and the 12 apostles after Christ.) What are the 24 elders like? What about the four living creatures suggests the eternal power of God? What response does the central figure elicit? Why? What does this say about who God is, and how God relates to God's creation? Imagine this scene with you in it. How are you feeling? What do you see? What impresses you about God? How might this vision enhance your worship life? Your everyday life? What lifts your perspective from the earthly to the heavenly?

Sunday

PSALM 100

This psalm invites us to enter joyfully into the presence of God. God's faithfulness extends to each generation. What six reasons does the psalmist give us to praise God? Do these apply to all people? Is your expression of "joy of the Lord" too limited? Today, joyfully and gratefully come into the presence of the Lord, and let your heart overflow with love. Let your spirit dance with joy!