



## St. Paul Weekly Newsletter for July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Revelation: “Mysterious Visions.”

Pointillism is a painting technique in which small, distinct dots of pure color are applied to form an image. If you focus on just a few dots you miss the larger image, much like a mosaic. Only by standing back and observing the whole, the “big picture,” does the painting make sense. I would suggest that this art form is instructive for our reading and understanding of the Book of Revelation. We could get lost in the details and miss the big picture. This Sunday we will begin a four-week series on the book of Revelation, which appears to be confusing, confounding and filled with crazy stuff. This Sunday we explore “Revelation: God’s Great Good News Revealed,” and Sunday’s theme is “Mysterious Visions.”

#### Last Sunday

Worship Attendance: 30

We need your help! 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.

**Nadene Ellsworth’s** daughter Tania has let us know that her mom is now ready for visitors if anyone from the church would like to visit. Please make sure you are in good health (no colds) and keep the visit to about 30 minutes. Please contact Tania to set up a time at 907-654-4904.

We continue to receive **donations** for our **roof project**. Since July 1<sup>st</sup> we received donations from Prescott, AZ; Cut Bank, MT; Onalaska, WI; Canton, MI; Lead, SD; Ashton, IL; New London, NC; Viroqua, WI; Roseau, MN; and Cannon Falls, MN totaling \$10,813.00. Please thank God for the blessings we are receiving from other LCMC churches throughout America.

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.

Looking for some misplaced **tables and chairs** from St. Paul. If you have some at your house from an event, just give us a call and we would be glad to pick them up.

Please make a note that we are no longer receiving **email** from our GCI address. Please bookmark [stpaulkodiak@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulkodiak@gmail.com) as our correct address.

**“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 12<sup>th</sup>**

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 13<sup>th</sup>**

Pray for our Sunday worship services.

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

#### **Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>**

10:00am – **Worship**. We worship in Springhill Hall; use the side door that faces the church building. We will be celebrating the baptism of Orion at worship.

11:00am – Fellowship time after worship. Please join us for some fellowship and **Mac & Cheese Sunday** after worship.

11:15am -- **LifeGroup adult Bible study** will have study guides available but will not meet on Sunday.

#### **Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>**

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](mailto:whbarker40@gmail.com).

#### **Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>**

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](mailto:whbarker40@gmail.com).
- ❖ If you want to join our book club, contact Lynn Devlin at [jldevlin@gci.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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- Revelation 4**

**Consumerism as the enemy of true worship.** If we're honest, we'll admit that worship has become all about us in many ways. We expect worship to feed us. We expect worship to make us feel a certain way. If we don't like what we experience at one church, if it doesn't meet our needs, we simply go to another church. When we carry these attitudes into the throne room of John's revelation, we quickly see the absurdity of it all. Can you imagine the elders saying, "We sang this same song last

week. If you don't change it up I'm not casting down my crown anymore!" Worship isn't about how we feel any more than real love is about how we feel. Worship, like real love, is all about what we do.

The great lie of consumerism is that if we could just have more, get fed more, we'd be satisfied. John's revelation reminds us that we were made to pour ourselves out, and in so doing we will discover true satisfaction. Read or sing this hymn stanza:

*Finish, then, Thy new creation; Pure and spotless let us be,  
Let us see Thy great salvation, Perfectly restored in Thee,  
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

A truncated gospel is the enemy of spiritual vibrancy. Why is there so much complacency in American Christianity? Why are there so many people at churches who are content to have their name in the church books and merely fulfill their "religious duty" at Christmas and Easter? Perhaps, in part, it's because the gospel has been truncated to a kind of "get-out-of-hell-free" religion encouraging people to think that Christianity has very little to do with real life, right here and now. When eternal life is only what happens after we die, then the truncated gospel encourages us to dissociate our faith from daily life. It implies that this world isn't worth investing into, because faith is all about escaping the evils of this world. This, however, is not the gospel according to Jesus. Jesus' gospel invites us to live into the new Kingdom that he inaugurated; a Kingdom meant to mirror the unseen Kingdom of heaven. This gospel invites us to a life of passionate discipleship in which we throw down the crown of our own agenda, of a self-seeking, self-serving life, and love as we have first been loved.

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

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 Bajuclos	Jim Devlin
Joe and Mary Beth Symonoski	Bill 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  
Laurie Johnson  
Greg Culver  
Sue Devers  
The family of Darlene Wilson  
Pat Scheider  
Tony

George Lare and his family  
Kyle Hannah  
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.

### **Message Notes:**

Revelation is a specific kind of literature called \_\_\_\_\_.

Revelation has been used as some kind of \_\_\_\_\_, a lens through which people seek to read current events in order to predict the future.

The book of Revelation was written by a man named \_\_\_\_\_ to seven churches in Ephesus.

The core theme of all seven letters is \_\_\_\_\_ and admonishment to both persevere and conquer.

John has a vision of God’s \_\_\_\_\_ room, a vision that’s also revealed in Isaiah, Ezekiel and Daniel. This throne room is the place from which God rules over all of creation.

God and God alone is worthy of their \_\_\_\_\_ and praise, not the Caesars of their day. Compromising their faith or becoming complacent would be foolish in light of God’s majesty and sovereign power.

If we’re honest, many of us would have to admit that worship has become all about \_\_\_\_\_ in so many ways.

Worship isn’t about us. It’s about \_\_\_\_\_.



# Daily Walk on the Rock

July 14, 2024

Psalm 100; Revelation 4

## Monday

### REVELATION 5

In John's day, books were written on scrolls: pieces of papyrus or vellum up to 30 feet long, rolled up and sealed with clay or wax. What do you think makes the scroll so significant? (See Jeremiah 36:2-32.) Why is Christ the only one worthy enough to open it (4, 9; also see John 1:29)? What does it mean that he is both a lion and a lamb? Does that have meaning for you? Review the three songs (9-13). How is the lamb described? Who are the three singing groups? Who are the true kings and priests on earth? Develop your own prayer and praise to offer God in singing and in word.

## Tuesday

### REVELATION 6

This is the first of three judgments. The trumpets (8-9) and the bowls (16) are the other two. Four horses appear as the first four seals are opened. How are the horses and the horsemen alike? How are they different? How do the second and third lead to the fourth? What is revealed when opening the fifth seal (9)? How is this related to the suffering of the Christians in John's day? In our day? What occurs when the sixth seal is broken (12-13; see also Mark 13)? How does this make you feel about end times? Why? How might these words affect your actions this week?

## Wednesday

### REVELATION 7

The sixth seal has been opened and the big question is this: Who can stand the wrath of God? How? Do you think the four angels are a new “woe,” or an affirmation of chapter 6? What sense does chapter 7 make after chapter 6? What is the message of the angel (3)? Is the number 144,000 a symbol or a statistic (4)? Why? (see 7:9 and 14:1-5). When the multitude cries out, how do the angels, elders and four living creatures respond (10)? What qualifies those robed in white to stand before God (14)? Is the safety and service of these Christians a present-life experience, or a promise to be realized in the distant future? Or both? Why? What sort of seal has God placed on your life? How is this seal evident to other Christians? To non-Christians? Does this chapter bring you comfort and hope in your sufferings and tribulations?

## Thursday

### REVELATION 8

When the seventh seal is opened, the seven trumpet judgments are revealed. Chapter 8 reveals the judgments of the first four trumpets. What events follow the sounding of each of the first four trumpets (8: 7-12)? What parallels, or repeated patterns, do you see between the opening of the seals and the sounding of the trumpets which

suggests that these two scenes are, in reality, two sides of the same coin? The trumpets reveal what will happen to the unbelieving world, while the seals focus on what will happen to the church. Do you think these seals and trumpets refer to datable, sequential events, or to aspects of the world's condition, which may be true at any point in history? Are you finding that all this imagery seems far removed from you? Pray that God would give you eyes and ears to hear what he is saying to you through his Word.

## Friday

### REVELATION 9:1-12

What happens when the fifth trumpet sounds? What does the abyss represent (1)? What power do the locusts have? Who are they allowed to torture? (Most likely the locusts are demons, evil spirits ruled by Satan. God limits what they can do; they do nothing without his permission.) But these verses tell us that God's judgment on the world will be so severe that people will desire death over life. God's people know that he has sealed us from his final judgment. Knowing that, what is your fear level right now? Your trust level? Pray about that.

## Saturday

### REVELATION 9:13-21

Are the angels in 14 good or evil? What is God's role in their actions? How does the power of the locusts differ from the power of the horses? What events are implemented by the sounding of the sixth trumpet? Immorality and evil don't happen to us suddenly; we slip into their grip a little bit at a time. Any of us allowing sin to take root in our lives will end up in the same predicament. Temptation becomes sin, sin becomes habit, and the result is separation from God forever (see James 1:15). Take time to acknowledge your sins before God and to thank him for his grace and forgiveness.

## Sunday

### PSALM 36

In this psalm, the righteous seem to be those who may do evil, but are generally seeking to please God. The wicked are those who, despite the good that they may do, are generally rejecting God's ways. What aspects of your life do you see in these verses? To what do you compare God's love? God's faithfulness? God's justice? (Refer to verses 8-9.) Have you tasted of God's feast lately? How has God refreshed you? Thank God for how he pours out his love on those who know him!