



# MAY EPISTLE



ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL AND EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

MAY 2020

Hello brothers and sisters in Christ.

I hope that this letter finds everyone well and "Safer at Home". Hang in there, this too shall pass. Like a wonderful parishioner reminded me, the Israelites wandered for 40 years. We just have a couple of months.

So the topic for this month is on education. I certainly commend all of you teachers, parents, grandparents, caregivers, students, and everyone else who is helping to keep the knowledge flowing while we are unable to congregate. What I would like to talk about is opportunity.

We have a unique opportunity right now, being at home more, to better ourselves. Get away from the TV and video games. Get outside, play games, set puzzles, have conversations, and READ BOOKS! Make sure they are good books. Entertainment is important, but so are non-fiction books. And PLEASE, take this time to develop a good (or better) habit of studying God's Word. It is important now, more than ever. We aren't coming together for Word and Sacrament right now. Please view the services and the Bible studies (online at [www.splco.org](http://www.splco.org)), but do your own studying as well.

Luther understood the importance of this which led to his Small Catechism. He knew things weren't being taught correctly in the home, if they were being taught at all. Other Catechisms existed, but they were very long and confusing. They weren't practical for the home. This is where his idea for the Small Catechism came from. He condensed a series of sermons that he had preached on certain topics and wrote the Small Catechism. In 1529, it was printed for the first time and was an instant bestseller.

The Small Catechism was written for home use, for the head of the family to teach the family. You should do the same. I strongly suggest that you at least purchase Luther's Small Catechism, and the Lutheran Study Bible. Although they can be found on Amazon, they can also be purchased from Concordia Publishing House at [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org). No, I do not get a kickback from them, but there are great many books and Bible studies that might interest you. If they are found at CPH, they are good.

This is important. Your mental and spiritual well-being are most likely weaker as we travel through these times. Studying God's Word will strengthen you.

Hebrews 4:12, "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

Romans 15:4, "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

God's blessing and peace to you all.

*Pastor Steve Schameff*



## From the Senior Pastor

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell

# Always Being Catechized

Christ is always teaching. His disciples—that's us!—are always being catechized.

When we set out to revise our logo and affirm our core values leading up to our 150th anniversary in 2015, we also chose "root words" to help deepen our sense of the values. Education was identified as a long-standing core value for St. Paul's and we chose the Greek word *catecheo* (cat-ek-EH-oh) for the root. This is significant because catechesis has different implications than the more common learning. The ancient practice of catechesis is a method of teaching designed for the disciple to know the material so well that he or she can also repeat it right back and also pass it on and explain it to others. In other words—in keeping with our mission statement—Christian education is about "receiving and giving and love and hope of Christ."

The whole world is in the midst of a fascinating time of catechesis. As Christians, the Covid-19 quarantine is a call to be attentive to the Word of God and what God is teaching each of us as males and females and all of us as a congregation and church. What is God teaching you in the midst of this? What idols are being revealed? How is God's grace reaching you in new ways?

There is a lot to learn.

### A Word of Encouragement

As challenging as the constant changes related to the Covid-19 restrictions have been—It is has been the challenge of a lifetime for most of us!—there has been an amazing response by St. Paul's people.



## EDUCATION

(*catecheo*)

To know Christ is to understand, live, and defend the faith.

"...Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. . ."  
(1 Peter 3:15, ESV)

- The Lord's Cupboard food pantry has received a lot of donations and volunteers are acting with charity and grace, within public safety guidelines, to ensure that people of our community who need food, have it.
- Volunteers for Swaddling Clothes ministry continue to help new moms who need assistance with basic supplies.
- Our school faculty have received a radically changed workload with grace and hearts to serve; so also our early childhood staff.
- Some St. Paul's members have taken pay cuts at their businesses to help fellow employees keep their jobs; some are shopping for their neighbors, calling upon them.

Some of us have lost jobs and wages and are hurting, some a great deal. Some of us are doing just fine with the restrictions; some are struggling or really starting to struggle. If you're one of those, the church wants to help, but we can't help if we don't know. It can be hard to ask for help, but that's why we're here. Call the office and talk to one of the secretaries or the pastors. What we can do, we will do.

### **Schedule Adjustments**

- Confirmation. The 2020 Rite of Confirmation has been rescheduled for Sunday, October 18th at 8:00 a.m. God-willing, we all get to celebrate together!
- 8th Grade Graduation and Banquet. It is a great sorrow that we cannot celebrate our usual public graduation service and related banquet for our 8th grade class. That said, Mrs. George is working a solution that allows us to celebrate in some "Covid-safe" way. We are so thankful for the partnership we have with our families and pray that we'll be able to have some kind of get-together to celebrate this wonderful class.

### **A Special Thank You to Adam and Nicole Tanney**

Nicole Tanney teaches 4K and middle school art among other things. Adam Tanney is our 6th grade home room and middle school science teacher among other things. Both bring many other gifts to St. Paul's, including yeoman's work with our youth, athletic teams, music, etc. As many of you may know, Adam has been admitted to Concordia Seminary and will begin studies toward being a pastor this summer. Nicole will begin a position as Childcare Director at a suburban St. Louis congregation this summer. Mr. and Mrs. Tanney each exemplify the spirit of Christian service. We are so thankful to have had the opportunity to serve with them and pray for God's protection and blessing upon Adam and Nicole, and their daughters, Etta and Sloane.

## ***Pastoral Care***

Emergency pastoral care is available. However, to limit social contact for the sake of all, per the Governor's order, non-emergency pastoral care is on hiatus through May 26<sup>th</sup>. The pastors and elders have a congregational "call list" and are progressing through the list, checking-in on our members. If you have a prayer request or something of pastoral concern, *please call the office!* 262-567-5001. Please also check-in on your family and neighbors regularly. If there's a need the church can help with, please let us know.

## ***Offering Announcement***

*The congregation's response to the Covid crisis thus far has been very encouraging. The pastors, elders, and church leadership team are deeply thankful. We reiterate:*

In order to maintain the ministry functions, **it is *critical* that those with steady income continue to give sacrificially**. It is always important to give something, but **if your contribution has to be reduced because of your situation, do so in God's peace**. You can contribute in the following ways:

1. Mail your offering to the church.
2. Online. Go to [www.splco.org](http://www.splco.org), click in the upper right corner on the orange offerings/donate button to set up an account.
3. On your smartphone via the GivePlus app. Search your phone's app store for "**GivePlus Church**" to download and give through the app.

## ***The Lord's Supper***

"Given the clear guidance of medical and governing authorities regarding behavior that best minimizes the spread of infection," (CTCR, *Communion and Covid-19*) and other theological, pastoral, and logistical factors, the pastors and elders have decided that for a congregation our size it remains wisest *not* to resume distribution of The Lord's Supper *at this time*. We will re-evaluate this in mid-May. Perhaps by then we will have some hope of social re-engagement!

I cannot properly describe to you the grief that I feel at not offering the Supper; that grief is compounded by the fact that it has a little bit to do with me. I had a near-fatal experience last year with massive blood clots in my lungs after a simple knee surgery. My lungs are a little compromised. I admit that I am growing *very* impatient with the risk-management, but in conversation with my family, the elders and others, it seemed wisest to limit my exposure as much as possible for the time being, and—with a congregation our size—not leave Pastor Schamell to do all the communing alone and expose him to even greater risk. There are a lot of other reasons. The April 2020 *Epistle* outlines some of these.

In light of all this—**for us at St. Paul’s—the pastors and elders have—at this time—decided that we will all fast from the Sacrament together until we can commune together.** Thank you for your forbearance. Thank you for your understanding. Thank you for praying for your pastors and elders and staff. Thank you for keeping the vigil with us in what is proving to be an extended—and very much unwanted—fast.

Thus, with the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations, we “humbly and repentantly . . . ask the Lord for the regular administration of the Sacrament of the Altar to be restored to us, together with an end to the “deadly pestilence” that is killing thousands of souls who are precious to God, their Creator (see Psalm 91; Jonah 4:11).” (CTCR, *Communion and Covid-19*)

### ***Planning for the Future***

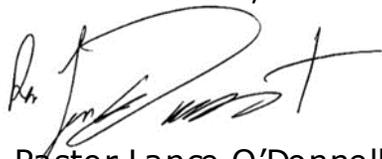
1. **Worship Under “Social Easing.”** Governor Evers’ plan includes a process for easing restrictions. The pastors and elders have a plan to restore multiple public worship services—God-willing!—when we can gather in groups of less than 50. This will cause us to make all sorts of accommodations (masks, gloves, handwashing, etc.), but St. Paul’s has responded so magnificently thus far, I can foresee only a congregation that remains agreeable, thankful, and eager.
2. **St. Paul’s 155<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!** July 1, 2020 is our 155<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We obviously don’t yet know how we’ll be able to celebrate, but we will do something!
3. **Special Celebrations.** Allison Mackie, our Director of Parish Music, is beginning to make plans for special music under whatever “social easing” guidelines we end up with.

### ***Help Your Neighbor***

If you don’t know your neighbors, now is the time to begin reaching out. Someone may need help. Someone may simply need the pleasure of speaking to another across the lawn. You never know.

*God, help us to come out of this with a greater appreciation for the gift of life, the forgiveness that sets us free, and the serendipitous opportunities to serve. In Jesus’ name. Amen.*

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Lance O’Donnell, Senior Pastor

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 10th  
**Phil Herrmann**

May 14th  
**Bernice Jorgenson**  
**Al Mueller**

May 18th  
**Russ Meyer**  
**Dick Paul**

May 19th  
**Roxie Gerlach**  
**Anne Lindquist**

May 20th  
**Jean Anderson**  
**Julayne Sullivan**

May 22nd  
**Carolyn Pankow**

May 24th  
**Barb Kozlowski**

May 26th  
**Tony Brockway**  
**Karen Meyer**

May 27th  
**Dorothy Duchow**

May 29th  
**Rick Ware**

May 30th  
**Donna Andrus**

May 31st  
**Marian Faltersack**

*For our members 70+ years*



## MEMORIALS

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| Paul Borgman | \$95.00  |
| Jane Tinus   | \$10.00  |
| Don Gauerke  | \$150.00 |

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH AND SCHOOL  
(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)  
210 E. Pleasant Street  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050  
262-567-5001

\*\*\*\*\*

### WORSHIP & STUDY

|                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Saturday              | 5:00 pm  |
| Sunday (Traditional)  | 8:00 am  |
| Sunday (Contemporary) | 10:30 am |
| Bible Class           | 9:15 am  |

Pastor Lance Armstrong O'Donnell 567.5001 x217

Pastor Steve Scharnell 567.5001 x216

Director of Parish Music, Allison Madkie 567.5001 x214

Principal - Jill George 567.5001 x213

FAX 567.1207

Website: [www.splco.org](http://www.splco.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

### RADIO BROADCASTS:

8:00 am Sunday Worship  
Live on WTKM 104.9 FM/1540 AM  
& [www.wtkm.com](http://www.wtkm.com)

### EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

Christian Pre-School & Day Care  
Director Christine Flores 567-4881

Epistle Editor-Heather Scheuer

\*\*\*\*\*

Newsletter deadline for articles,  
announcements and features is the  
2nd Wednesday of the month

PLEASE ADVISE THE CHURCH OFFICE OF  
ANY ADDRESS CHANGES

# MAY 2020

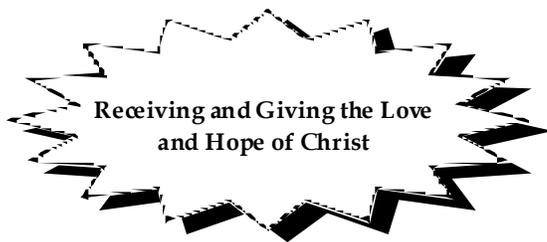
| SUNDAY  | MONDAY                                      | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY                                   | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY  |
|---|---|---------|---|----------|--------|---|
|   |   |         |   |          |        | 2<br>5pm Traditional Worship @ spico.org<br>AVAILABLE: 5pm Adult Bible Study @ spico.org  |
| 9<br>Barn Traditional Worship @ spico.org   | 4<br>5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Open<br>Party  | 5       | 6<br>5:00pm Congregational Zoom<br>Meeting  | 7        | 8      | 9<br>5pm Traditional Worship @ spico.org<br>AVAILABLE: 3pm Adult Bible Study @ spico.org  |
|   |   |         |   |          |        |   |
| 9<br>Barn Traditional Worship @ spico.org<br>9:15am Adult Bible Study @ spico.org | 11<br>6:00 pm Swaddling Clothes<br>Ministry | 12      | 3   | 4        | 5      | 16<br>5pm Traditional Worship @ spico.org<br>AVAILABLE: 3pm Adult Bible Study @ spico.org |
|   |   |         |   |          |        |   |
| 9<br>Barn Traditional Worship @ spico.org<br>9:15am Adult Bible Study @ spico.org | 18<br>5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Food<br>Party | 19      | 20<br>5:00pm Congregational Zoom<br>Meeting | 21       | 22     | 23<br>5pm Traditional Worship @ spico.org<br>AVAILABLE: 5pm Adult Bible Study @ spico.org |
|   |   |         |   |          |        |   |
| 9<br>Barn Traditional Worship @ spico.org<br>9:15am Adult Bible Study @ spico.org | 25<br>6:00 pm Swaddling Clothes<br>Ministry | 26      | 27  | 28       | 29     | 30<br>TBD   |
|   |   |         |   |          |        |   |
| 31<br>TBD   |   |         |   |          |        |   |

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, School & ECC  
210 E. Pleasant St.  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050

PRSTD STD  
NON PROFIT ORG  
U.S. postage  
**PAID**  
Oconomowoc, WI  
Permit No. 45

Address Service Requested

Phone: 262-567-5001  
Fax: 262-567-1207  
Website: www.splco.org



### St. Paul's Ladies Aid

Due to the Coronavirus, like everything else, we will be postponing our Mother – Daughter – Friend Banquet. Our last meeting (God-willing) will be on June 4th.

### MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

#### Transfer from another LCMS church

Carole Schmeda – Immanuel Lutheran Church, Brookfield, WI

Elaine Schmeda – Immanuel Lutheran Church, Brookfield, WI

#### Death

Ronald Jaeger

**Baptized 1902    Confirmed 1111**

### Sunday Adult Bible Study

Pastor Scharnell will be leading our Adult Bible Study virtually. This Bible Study is a six part series on witnessing the Good News of Jesus Christ. It will take us through the end of May. In our current situation, many people are searching for hope. This study will encourage you to share the hope that we have. Having just celebrated the resurrection of our Lord, let's continue to carry that joy and give it to others in this time of uncertainty. The link to the Bible Study will be posted on the front page of our website on Saturdays at 5pm.