

March 17, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the wonderful Name of our once dead but now living Lord and Savior Who has defeated sin, death, and the devil! In these troubling times please allow me to remind you that King David knew what he was talking about when he wrote of our Lord Jesus in **Psalm 23:1: *The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.*** Jesus has spoken of His dedication to us when He said in **John 10:11: *I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.*** The Apostle Paul was convinced of our heavenly Father's generosity when he wrote in **Romans 8:31b-32: *If God is for us, who can be against us? He Who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, won't He along with Him give us all things?*** Again and again, our God has provided for us as individuals, households, and as the family of God named St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School! He will not stop now!

By now you know that our school, worship services, Bible studies, women and family ministry events, youth ministry activities, and fellowship activities have been cancelled until further notice. For those of you with computers and internet capabilities our midweek worship services will be live-streamed each Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m. The Sunday services will be live-streamed each Sunday at 9 a.m. If you don't have internet access but do have a DVD player then DVDs of our services can be supplied to you, please contact the church office to make arrangements. Also daily devotions will be shared on Facebook and St. Paul's webpage each morning at 9 a.m.

Communion will be offered for individuals or families on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at two stations in the church beginning Sunday, March 22. Strict adherence of the ten person group limit will be observed. You may be asked to wait outside the church until those inside have communed and left. Private communion is available by appointment, please call the church office to make arrangements.

Kathy Pingel's women's Bible studies and prayer group are being carried on through the ZOOM app at the normal times they meet. If a new person wishes to join any of the Bible studies please contact Kathy Pingel at 754-4471, ext. 306 or kpingel@stpaulsjanesville.com.

Continued on Back ⇨

In all the disruption of St. Paul's life, we are facing a serious reduction of offerings. If you tithe by means of the offering envelopes, I would encourage you to be faithful in mailing them to the church office. It would be a blessing if you can please consider increasing your offering to help us face our financial challenges. If the Lord has especially blessed you recently you might consider a one-time, above and beyond offering. For those of you who don't use electronic giving you may want to consider doing so as it is safe, secure, confidential, and a good way of providing uninterrupted financial support to our Church and School. There is a brochure on how to sign up for this service included with this letter. Electronic giving can be used once, permanently, or within a certain time frame. If you have any questions please contact our business manager, Cindy Perkins at 754-4471, ext. 307 or cperkins@stpaulsjanesville.com.

Shut-in and hospital calls will not continue until further notice due to health concerns. But we still have a desire to minister to our older members. That's where you could come in. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to call a shut-in/older member every few days to: (1) Ask how they are doing, (2) Determine if they have any unmet needs (groceries, prescriptions that can be picked up for them), and (3) Offer a provided devotion and prayer. If you would be willing to call and/or run errands for a shut-in or older St. Paul's member, please contact me at: Office: (608) 754-4471, ext. 300, Cell: (608) 322-5839, or ddecker@stpaulsjanesville.com.

Finally, pray for those who are affected by this pandemic. Pray for doctors, nurses, and medical personnel who are at risk. Pray for those whose jobs are being reduced or eliminated. Pray for the quick diminishing of COVID-19. Also, please keep St. Paul's Church and School in your prayers. Pray for the students. Pray for the teachers. Pray for many of our hourly workers who will not be working during this time. Pray that the financial support of our ministries will not lag, requiring an interruption of paychecks for staff and faculty. Pray that we can all work together to come back to a St. Paul's that can be stronger than the one we left. God's blessings!

Jude 24-24!

Pastor Decker