

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church
405 Emma
Chenoa, IL 61726

July 30, 2020

It has been a long 4 ½ months. That's how long we've been dealing with this COVID-19 situation so far, and it doesn't appear an end is in sight. I said something a couple months ago now about how it had everyone feeling frustrated, and that, too, has not changed. The longer it goes on, and as we get closer to the start of the school year, feelings and rhetoric both seem to be getting even more heated.

I wish that I had words of wisdom that would make everything ok. I wish I had a solution or a proposal for how to do things that everyone could agree on and put an end to the arguments and squabbling around this situation. Unfortunately, I don't. Like the rest of you I'm doing the best I can in terms of trying to sift through all the conflicting arguments and statistics and trying to do what's best for our congregation, my family, and our community.

One thing I can do, as your pastor, is point you to God's Word. In particular, I encourage you to turn to the Psalms. Whatever emotions you're feeling, there's going to be a psalm to match. And in my experience, it will give word to it far better than you can manage yourself. Whether you're feeling scared, anxious, angry, thankful, or joyful, Scripture's prayer book offers you words to feed your soul. Today, I'd like to offer to you the words of Psalm 91. May it grant you peace and assurance in the midst of these conflicted and unsure times:

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

² I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."

³ For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence.

⁴ He will cover you with his pinions,

and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.
⁵ You will not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.
⁷ A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.
⁸ You will only look with your eyes
and see the recompense of the wicked.
⁹ Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—
the Most High, who is my refuge—
¹⁰ no evil shall be allowed to befall you,



no plague come near your tent.
¹¹ For he will command his angels
concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
¹² On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a
stone.
¹³ You will tread on the lion and
the adder;
the young lion and the serpent you
will trample underfoot.
¹⁴ “Because he holds fast to me in love, I
will deliver him;
I will protect him, because he knows
my name.
¹⁵ When he calls to me, I will answer
him;
I will be with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and honor him.
¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation.”

In Christ,
Pastor Jeremy

Here's the link to sign up for services. All of the August services are there, so if you are signing up for more than one at a time, please double check your dates and the number of people you are signing up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054CACAB2AA6F49-august>

St. Paul's Discipleship

| Date | Attendance | Offering | Missions |
|----------------------------|------------|----------|----------|
| 07-05 | | 2189.00 | 95.00 |
| 07-19 | | 8320.00 | 70.00 |
| 07-26 | | 1664.00 | 25.00 |
| Ladies Restroom Renovation | | 148.00 | |

NEEDING OUR CONTINUING PRAYER

Rose Bailey [*friend of Jonnita Vogel's,*]
Norman Beitz
Alma Brucker
Michelle Darguzis
Rachel Griffore [*had hand surgery*]
Margaret Haney
Stacie Hensley
Martha Kylander
Barbara Lambert [*mother of principal at PCJH*]
Donna Leonard [*friend of Roger & Pat Wahls*]
Trent Nelson [*Natashia Nelson's father-in-law*]
Carla Nobis [*at Good Samaritan Home*]
Thom Palmer [*high school friend of Pat Wahls*]
Jim Raymond
Elaine Rhoda
Dwight Schuler
Ramona Schuler
Beverly Sohn
Rick Trachsel [*cousin of Roger Seeman*]
Jalene Wollford [*grade school student at St. Mary's, Pontiac*]



Prayer Concerns

Please notify Joy if anyone could be removed from the Prayer List.

From Our Parish Nurse

Pam Norris

Until further notice, routine blood pressure checks will be suspended.



This year has been very different for graduations. Our congratulations to all our graduates – if it be from college, high school, junior high or preschool, we are proud of you.

Blessings to you all!

We're Proud of You!

You can still join Hope Pregnancy Center's Baby Bottle Project that started from Father's Day to August 16th. There are still baby bottles at the church, take a baby bottle home with you. Drop your spare change, dollars or a check into the bottle and watch it fill to the top! Then bring the bottle back to church. The spare change collected will be used to help babies and mothers across the entire area. Will you partner with us in this simple way to give hope and save lives?