

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER



The seed catalog

Every year in the depths of winter I'll open the mailbox at the end of our driveway to, lo and behold, find a Jung's seed catalog. Someone in Jung's marketing division annually decides to send us this slick publication, full of colorful pictures of tomatoes, corn, blueberry and strawberry plants, etc., making sure it reaches us when the wind chill is nearly unbearable. However, the strategy works. On those dark winter nights Teri and I will start flipping through the catalog until late February when we send in an order for springtime.

I mention all this because someone once told me that to be a gardener in northern Minnesota one must be an irrational optimist. This view has a kernel of truth, considering we can suffer late frost into June; combat potato beetles in July; battle deer, rabbits, and racoons all season; and watch late blight knock out our beautiful potato vines in August.

Considering all that we face as gardeners, it may indeed be hard to be optimistic. This is often true of life as well. The world does not offer much hope. Today's headlines describe the war in Ukraine, the theft of funds meant for food relief, and the continuing challenge of Covid 19, and that's just page one! Tomorrow might be, for us individually, as depressing. One's health might continue to decline. Gas prices will probably approach record highs. Job security might disappear. Winter will still keep us in its grip. So, should we just sing that inane song of a few years back, "Don't worry, be happy"? Should we just read another book about the "power of positive thinking"?

No! As Christians we need not despair since "Tomorrow is as bright as the promises of God." Our optimism, our only hope for the future, must reside in our confidence in God. Consider these verses:

Romans 15:13 – "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost." Joy and peace can be ours in the most trying circumstances, not because of our own strength, but because of Christ in us.

Psalms 91:9-10 – "Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation, there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone." When I think of "refuge" I am reminded of the Gaither song "Lead me to the Rock" which is based on Psalm 61:2-3 – "... when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For thou hast been a shelter for me..." What better shelter is there than the refuge we can find in Christ?

Revelation 21:4 – "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." My grandma used to say, "We'll be winners in the end!" She had her eyes on heaven where there is no more death or sorrow.

1 Peter 5:6-7 – "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you."

Philippians 4:6-7 – "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

My prayer for you today is that the optimism based on God's promises might be your reality, and that these few scriptures might be an encouragement.

C. Phil Johnson



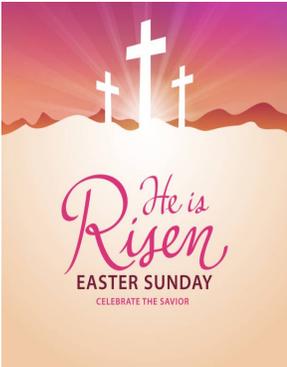
Worship SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday Service
 Thursday, April 14, 6:30 pm
Communion

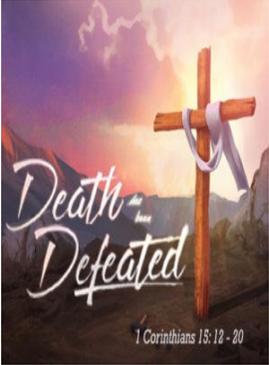


*He
 CAME SO WE
 MAY HAVE
 life
 AND HAVE IT
 TO THE
 full
 JOHN 10:10*

Good Friday Community Worship Service
 At : St. Paul's Lutheran Church
 Friday, April 15, 12 Noon



Easter Sunday Worship Service
Sunday, April 17, 9:00 am
 Followed by a Brunch, served by the Youth
No Sunday school or Confirmation classes



Book Club will be meeting
 Monday, April 18, 9:00 am



We will be discussing Willa Cather's *My Antonia*,
 the book we were supposed to review
 before Covid shut us down. If you need a copy,
 see Phil or Teri Johnson



Looking Ahead

- April 30.....Youth Nerf Night 5-7:30 pm
 (light supper provided)
- May 22Last day of Sunday School
- June 19.....Teen Challenge Choir
- June 20-24Vacation Bible School

St. Paul's Lutheran Church (AFLC)
1705 Wilson Ave,
Cloquet, MN 55720



HE IS RISEN!

Like" us on Facebook - St. Paul's Lutheran Church (AFLC)
www.stpaulscloquet.org / email stpaulscloquet@gmail.com

218-879-5956

Worship Services - Sundays 9:00 am

Sunday school classes 10:30 am

Confirmation Class 10:30

Wednesday Evening Activities 6:30 pm

Kid's Club, Youth Group, Bible Study