



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church
508 North Chicago Road
Thornton, IL 60476

Address Service Requested



The Glad Spirit

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

August – September 2018

First Love

It's a simple question, **“What is your first love?”** And it's a good question. It could be anyone; spouse, parent, child, family, friend, anyone. It could be a thing; home, car, job, sports, leisure, anything. It could be a place, hometown, vacation spot, anywhere. It could simply be loving life itself and all life has to offer. Yes, it could even be Jesus. So, **“What is your first love?”**

Go ahead, name it. Get the question set in your mind. **“What is your first love?”** What is it that prompts the asking of this question?

In the book of Revelation, The Lord had the apostle, St. John write seven letters to various churches. One of these was a letter to the Christians that made up the Church in Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-7 ESV). It's an interesting letter. He praises them for a number of good things. They work hard and refuse to quit. They had no stomach for evil and false teaching. They were persistent and never wore out. Sounds like a

good group of Christians. Together they sound like a pretty good congregation.

In each of the letters St. John further points out some negativity; a downfall, a blaring fault. For the Ephesians, it was that they had lost their **First Love**. It wasn't a little neglect of their **First Love**. It was worse, a total disaster. St. John describes their drift away from their **First Love** as being a Lucifer Fall. That's huge!

No doubt, these Christians loved what they were doing; their accomplishments and overall busy activity. Yet, they lost their **First Love**. St. John states, “. . . you walked away from your First Love.” They lost, simply walked away from Jesus. In spite of their flurry of activity, they lost sight of Jesus. Jesus had ceased to be their **First Love**. St. John's message from The Lord was dire, “I'm on my way to removing your light . . .” St. John further stated, “. . . there's no time to waste.” Return to your First Love. They were once again to focus on Jesus; his love, grace, mercy, forgiveness, and salvation. Granted, what the Ephesians were doing, did not seem that bad. They were doing it in the church and doing it for the church.

This all brings up the question, "What about us?" That is each of us, personally, individually. Is Jesus our **First Love**. Like the Ephesians, have we walked away from him? Does He come in second or third place behind other things in life. Does He even make the list of things we love. Is Jesus still our **First Love**? We must each answer that question alone. No one else can answer it for us. Is Jesus our **First Love**? Is He your **First Love**? Is He my **First Love**?

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus put it quite simply, ". . . seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." (Matthew 6:33 ES) Jesus makes it clear; He is to be number one in each of our lives, our **First Love**.

Remember how Jesus questioned Peter three times, "Do you love me more than these?" (John 21:15) Each time, He challenged Peter to "Feed my lambs." Peter needed to show that Jesus was indeed his **First Love**.

If Jesus is your First Love, why not show it? How? Consider these:

- Regular faithful worship attendance
- Reading the Bible each day
- Daily life of prayer and devotion
- Continual confession of sins
- Receiving the Sacrament of the Altar often

These are just a few, a good beginning. So the question is this, Is Jesus you **First Love**?

If not, why not?

Pastor Wahl



Happy end of summer to all our St. Paul families. We hope everyone enjoyed the sun and God's wonderful gifts. Now as the days are

becoming increasingly shorter and pumpkin is making its way back to store shelves, it's time we gear up for another school year. There is a lot of excitement this time of year, new school supplies, new teachers, and new friends.

This year our St. Paul Sunday School is finding itself in a predicament. Last year we had very little participation and ended Sunday School (other than the high school) at Easter. We want desperately to continue with Sunday School, but in order to do that we need kids and commitment. We are committed to continuing to inspire and grow young minds in God's Word. We will begin Sunday School as with tradition (we are Lutheran after all!) on the Sunday after Labor Day, Sunday Sept. 9th. It will again begin at 9 am. Feel free to come early, but please strive not to be late. We only have 30 minutes so we can get into church on time.

We are open to suggestions on how to better serve our congregation. If you know how to increase participation or want to offer help please do not hesitate to stop Tracy Gribbin or Dana Krieger. Invite neighbors, friends, kids around the block to come and see what St. Paul Sunday School offers. Also, please pray for our Sunday School and that we have children to hear God's Word and share it.

God's Many Blessings!



Pray and Praise to Our Savior right here at St. Paul. Wednesdays at 7:15 pm with a prayer walk in the parking lot. At 7:30pm an Early Evening Daily Prayer Service followed by a bible study at 7:45 to 8:30. Come for part of it or all of it. Open to the Community





25th Anniversary Celebration

St. Paul had a very festive occasion on Sunday, June 24 with the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the construction and dedication of our current church building. It was truly a service of joy and thanksgiving to The Lord for the blessing of our church building He has given us, Many people joined together to make the day possible by cleaning the church and organizing the celebratory dinner following the service. We Thank each and everyone for their participation. We also thank Tracy Gribbin who sang a beautiful solo for the service.

Featured Speaker



St. Paul's former pastor, Rev. Dennis Brandt and his wife Jane returned for our 25th Anniversary celebration. Pastor Brandt served our congregation during the time of the building's construction and the move from the old Hunter Street location to the new building. Jane also provided piano playing and solo performances as part of the service. We graciously thank Pastor

Brandt and Jane for coming and enhancing our celebration.



We thank the ladies of St. Paul's Banner group for designing a banner for the 25th Anniversary celebration of the construction and dedication of our church building. The banner depicts a tree representing the history of our building, its construction, and the various things which have taken place inside the building. Close examination of the banner reveals a broken limb. That broken limb represents the time in which high winds blew over the entire framework of the building during the construction process. Members of the Banner group include Shirley Smith, Sandy Bodza, Cathy Gastrich, Laura Schassburger, Diana Carr, and Shirley Wahl, Many thanks to these ladies and Glory to God for all He has done.





Margaret A. (Marge) Pearson of our congregation entered eternity on June 21, 2018, at the age of 82 years. She is survived by her children Jeffrey Michels, Cassandra Michels, and Steve (Laurie) Michels and also her brother Ray Zander and her sister Janet Sanders. Pastor Wahl officiated at a service of Christian burial from St. Paul's altar on June 25. We grieve with her family and loved ones over their loss. We also rejoice with them in the blessed assurance of the Resurrection in Jesus Christ. "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life." Revelation 2:10

Chelsea Elizabeth Mae Baker was made a child of the Heavenly Father on June 23, 2018 through the Sacrament of holy Baptism. Chelsea is the infant daughter of Alyssa Bagley and Christopher Baker. Chelsea's Baptismal Sponsors are Tracy Gribbin and Joseph Reynoso. We welcome Chelsea to the Family of God and to our congregation. "Baptism . . . now saves you." (1 Peter 3:21 ESV)

We'd love to see you in worship. If for some reason you cannot make it, you may join in the service in our live streaming at 9:45 a.m. at <http://splcms.org/worship-services/live-broadcast>

Our recorded worship services are archived at <http://splcms.org/worship-services/recorded-service>

I recently came across some old recipes from the 70's. This one is from Vernelle Ellis.

SUNSHINE SLUSH

- 3 cups water
- 1 cup sugar

Stir over medium heat until sugar is dissolved. Boil gently for 3 minutes and cool completely.

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| 24 oz unsweetened pineapple juice | 6 oz. frozen lemonade |
| 2 medium bananas, cut up | 6 oz frozen orange juice |
| 1 ½ cups rum or vodka | 2 Tablespoons lemon juice |

Blend bananas and half of the pineapple juice in blender until smooth. Pour into a large container. Stir in cooled water and sugar mixture. Add remaining ingredients and freeze overnight. Serve ½ glass of slush and ½ glass of club soda.

AUGUST 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 9:45am Worship Service	6	7	8	9	10	11 9:00am Trustee Work Day
12 9:45am Worship Service	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 9:45am Worship Service	20 7:00pm Council Meeting	21	22	23	24	25 1:00pm Parish Hall in Use
26 9:45am Worship Service	27	28	29	30	31	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:45am Worship Service 12:00pm Parish Hall in Use	3	4 7:30pm Elders Meeting	5	6	7	8 9:00am Trustee Work Day
9 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service	10 7:00pm Council Meeting	11	12	13	14	15
16 8:30am Bible Class 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 8:30am Bible Class 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 8:30am Bible Class 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service						