

Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church! Happy Easter still!

This week I wanted to start my *PastorBlast* with the third reason to pray the Lord's Prayer, by Bishop Steven Oxford.

### 3. To find the only way to be content

*Give us this day our daily bread.*

All year we are bombarded by advertising: every time we look at a screen or listen to the radio or open a magazine. The single aim of advertising is to steal our joy and create discontent and longing for more stuff or different experiences.

Jesus teaches his followers to pray each day not for more but for just enough. This is the open secret of what it means to be content and find joy in this life: to realize and appreciate what we have. This line alone is the antidote to the misery created by consumer culture.

If you received the printed newsletter for May (and read it 😊), you may not have seen the most updated CDC Guidelines for travelers and the guidance for when to return back to worship after traveling. If you read the online version, it was updated already showing the difference between vaccinated and un-vaccinated people. So here is the latest update: *If you have recently traveled, welcome back! Please keep in mind the following guidance from both the CDC and the Florida Department of Health as you plan to return to worship:*



*For those who are **fully vaccinated**, you should self-monitor for any COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.*

*If you are **not vaccinated**, the CDC advises travelers to get tested 3-5 days after returning home. If you don't get tested, stay home for 10 days after travel and avoid being around people who are at increased risk for severe illness for 14 days, whether you get tested or not. New CDC guidelines allow for quarantine to end after Day 7 if you test negative so long as the test is taken on Day 5 or after, and if no symptoms occur during 14 days of monitoring.*

It's just another reason to get a vaccine if you haven't already – no quarantine after traveling.

We are also aware of the new CDC Guidelines for masks outdoors. I had a meeting set up for next Monday already about worship and Covid safety, so we are going to discuss then how the new guidelines affect our time together during communion outside. So for this Sunday, there are no changes. Masks are still required for all outside (and of course inside).

Please continue to let me know if you are fully vaccinated or even if you are choosing not to get vaccinated. It helps in our planning for loosening of restrictions. Of course, it is your choice to tell me or not. I've heard from many of you already, thank you! Just another reason to get vaccinated – to help our church family be as safe as possible.

I wanted to share with you an opportunity to help a local Lutheran non-profit organization called "Lutheran Services of Florida" or LSF. St. Paul has a history of partnering with this organization. It has an upcoming fundraiser to support its local work in Sarasota. On May 13 from 7-8p they are hosting a Virtual Musical Bingo Night. It's on Zoom. Instead of numbers on the bingo card, it's names of songs. The song will be played and if you have it on your card, you get to mark it. It is \$35 for a card. Raffle tickets are also available. You do not need to be present to win the raffles. Register here - <https://lsf.salsalabs.org/sarasotafundraiser/index.html>. During the event there will also be a virtual tour of the Dream Center in Sarasota. The Dream Center houses refugee children while they wait to find their sponsored family. <https://www.lsfnet.org/dream-center-3/>

May God bless you in this continued Easter season!

*-PrAshley*

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