

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

MAY 2016



If we live by the
SPIRIT,
let us also keep
in step with the
SPIRIT.

GALATIANS 5:25, ESV

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Reverend Laura L. Stoneback, Pastor
8227 Hamilton Boulevard
Breinigsville, PA 18031
Telephone: 610-398-7000



Dear Friends,

“...so the next generation may know Christ.” You may recognize these words as part of our mission statement here at St. Paul’s. The full statement reads as follows:

‘Built on God’s love; sent to serve, So that the next generation may know Christ.’”

This past month, we welcomed six children to God’s table of love as they received their first holy communion. What a joy this was! These children were so excited. They and their parents attended classes in which they were taught age appropriate information about this wonderful gift God gives us.

Throughout the past months, we have had an active Sunday school. Children, their teachers, and their parents all participated as the stories of God and God’s love for all people were shared. As our Sunday school year draws to a close, I want to thank our teachers, helpers and parents who made this year of learning fun and informative for our youth.

I want to thank our congregation for welcoming our young families to worship. Yes, sometimes there is much activity in the pews and the noise level might be a bit higher than some would like. However, as I have the privilege of facing and watching the children in worship and I see them singing and participating in the service, my spirit leaps for joy. For the words they hear, the words they sing will be words that will stay with them throughout life.

I am so thankful that St. Paul’s is a congregation who takes seriously the call and challenge of being a place where ‘the next generation comes to know Christ’. With all the uncertainty in the world today, with all the models of hatred and greed and self-centeredness, we have the blessing of teaching and modeling what it is to be a child of God.

Thank you all for all you do, in the name of Christ.

Growing with you in faith,
Pastor Laura

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

We want to thank all our choirs for their beautiful music on Easter and throughout the Easter season. As we enter into the month of May, we have two more Sundays in the Easter season where we will continue to celebrate the Risen Christ and hear biblical accounts of this wonderful news.

May 15th is Pentecost Sunday. On this day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church. It truly is a festival day; and Red is the color of day. Feel free to wear your red as you share in the joy of Pentecost. On this day we will also celebrate the rite of confirmation as two of our youth confirm their faith and join the church.

May 22nd is Holy Trinity Sunday and our vocal choir will lead us in song this day as we celebrate church music Sunday. Please continue to worship as you are able and feel free to invite friends to join you. The number one reason people say they do not go to church is because they were never invited. Let your friends know all are welcome at St. Paul's. See you in church.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

On April 3rd we welcomed to the Lord's Table the following individuals who received their first Holy Communion: Jacob Christoffersen, Justin Christoffersen, Hailey Fatzinger, Joseph Mironov, Madison Mironov and Briana Mironov. May God's grace empower them to live out their baptism.

“We are not here to be successful. We are here to be faithful.”

—Mother Teresa

SUNDAY SCHOOL

As our Sunday school year comes to a close, I am happy to recognize our students, parents and teachers who have helped deliver Christian education to our 30+ children. Through volunteer efforts and contributions, we were able to offer weekly classes and special events throughout the year.

Special thanks to our classroom volunteers including: Carli & Kevin Henichek, Tom Kellogg, Anita Eisenhard, Sandi Wagaman, Sandi Christoffersen, Mel Pavlacka, Larry & Ginny Wingard, Vanessa & Ethan Eiswerth, Patrice Walters, Ali Thompson, Bob Nickisher, Daisy Pearson, Heather Caricari, Joe Flores, Neali Feimster, Jennifer Bentsen, Katie Pisauro and Amanda Mesko.

One recent activity we completed was our loose change collection for ELCA's Good Gifts program. Our children raised approximately \$400, which will help provide vital support to individuals in third world countries. We appreciate the congregation's support.

Our last day of Sunday school is set for May 22. Students will enjoy special games and a picnic after helping to beautify the church flower beds. We will also recognize all the students and helpers who have been a part of our program all year – and we will sing one final time in church. Sunday school will resume in early September.

Though Sunday school is wrapping up for the season, we are still in need of volunteers. Summer is a great time to acclimate yourself to our curriculum and learn more about the program. If you are interested in helping with Sunday school classes or special programs (e.g. Christmas pageant, rally day, special music, etc.) please contact me or the church.

Taryne Williams



STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Spring is in the air, and the beauty of God's creation surrounds us! Let us join the Psalmist as we praise and thank God for the beauty of the earth. As we enjoy the warmer and nicer weather, let us do our part in caring for creation. If we see trash, let's pick it up. Let's be sure to recycle whatever we can. Let's be good stewards and not purchase stuff, just because we can, but let's think about whether we really need it. Each act of caring for creation makes a difference.

ENDOWMENT NEWS

The endowment committee is accepting grant requests so that we can share God's blessings with others. If you know of a non-profit agency or program you think we can help, please submit a grant request form which can be found on our web page. See New Web Address article below.

If you find joy in returning to God those gifts God first gave you, and you would like to insure that you're giving never ends, please consider making a gift to the endowment fund. Gifts can be made in cash or through tools such as bequest in your will, a charitable gift annuity or trust. Let your legacy of returning thanks to God continue as a witness to your faith.

NEW WEB ADDRESS

Given the church's mailing address change from Trexlertown to Breinigsville, the Web site address (domain name) has been changed to www.stpaulsbville.org.

We have a new look. Check it out.

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE NORTHEAST PA SYNOD ASSEMBLY!

This year's Synod assembly will be held June 17-18 at the PPL Center in Allentown. Because the facility is so large, everyone is welcome to come for a day or a few hours. You might want to wonder around "God's playground" where you will have a chance to see what other churches do in areas of ministry. If you have never been to a synod assembly worship service, this is a wonderful opportunity to worship with hundreds of Lutherans and receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. The worship service will be on June 18th. This year our delegates to the assembly will be Sharon Bortz and Bob Nickisher. We thank them for giving of their time to serve St. Paul's at the assembly.

LUTHER CREST HOSTS PANEL DISCUSSION

The public is cordially invited to attend a panel discussion on the topic "Does God Exist? Either Way, How Do We Know?" at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, 2016, in Crest Hall of Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA 18104

HOSPITALIZED?

If you are in the hospital, please let the church office know. The hospitals have updated their computers, and unfortunately, we are not getting accurate reporting of members in the hospital. Our code # is 321.

WITTENBERG GOSPEL CHOIR RETURNS TO SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA

The Gospel Choir from the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany will be on tour in Southeast Pennsylvania in early May. The choir will begin their second American tour with a concert on Friday, May 6th at 7:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, Allentown.

The Gospel Choir, under the direction of Thomas Herzer, is over forty-five members strong. It includes not only members from the Castle Church, but also several singers from the Wittenberg community. It was founded as an outreach program for people who have a desire to sing the great American Spirituals and Gospel music. Though the choir sings the music in English, only a small handful of the musicians actually speak English.

The Castle Church in Wittenberg Germany was built around the turn of the 16th century. It is the site where in 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 Thesis; an act which many consider the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

Tickets are not required, and a free-will offering will be taken at the concerts. For more information contact Vincent M. Ryan, 215-256-9941, music@adventharleysville.org.

ALWAYS WITH US

Forty days after Easter, we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven. This occurred 10 days before Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' followers, as he had promised.

Jesus' ascension reminds Christians that although his body couldn't remain present everywhere, we can universally experience his spiritual presence. In fact, Jesus' final words to his disciples — and to us — contain this key promise: "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20, ESV).

THE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

St. Paul's Cemetery is pleased to announce it has entered into contract with Earl Wenz Memorials to construct the cremation garden. The 64 niche columbarium will be a beautiful addition to our cemetery and will meet the needs of our parishioners for years to come. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

Regards,
St. Paul's Cemetery Association

CHRISTIAN ACTION SEWING GROUP NEEDS SHEETS!

The Quilters continue to put together quilts to send to Lutheran World Relief or to be used locally through *Pathways*, a program of the Lehigh Conference of Churches. Each quilt requires two or three sheets (or blankets or other large pieces of fabric). Right now our supply of sheets is exhausted. All sizes can be used. Flannel sheets are especially appreciated.

Maybe we can help. Please give any sheets or blankets to Martha Lindenmuth and she will see that they are delivered to Redeemer Lutheran Church in Allentown.

Thank you for your help with this important project.

WELCA

The WELCA Lehigh Cluster had their Spring Retreat titled Find Rest For Your Souls – April 9, 2016; St. Paul’s Lutheran church; 8227 Hamilton Blvd.; Breinigsville, PA 18031 which was attended by 44 women of the ELCA.

Registration began at 8:30 a.m. and the program was from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Georgia Suranofsky and Brenda Stauffer spoke on Mission Interpretation; Melanie Find on Helping Our Farmers and Patricia Reitnauer and Minerva Hoppes on Lectio Divina.

After lunch Lutheran Congregational Personal Care Kits were assembled.

The monthly WELCA meeting was on April 13. After a business discussion, there was a Bible Study on “Keep on Keeping On” based on Philippians 4:4-23.

The May meeting will be on the 11th. After our business meeting, Bible Study, and lunch; we will tour the SOTA House in Allentown.

Submitted by Sharon Bortz

PROCRASTINATORS

A pastor waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but many cars were ahead of the pastor at the service station. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

“Sorry about the delay,” said the young man. “Everyone seems to wait until the last minute to get ready for a long trip.”

The pastor chuckled, “I know what you mean. It’s the same in my business.”

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
BARNYARD ROUNDUP**
Sunday June 26th -Thursday June 30th
6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Ages 3-12

Calling all farmers!!! We are gearing up for another great year of VBS. Join us for bible stories, crafts, games, music and snacks. Invite your family and your friends. The more the better!

Sign-ups are happening NOW!!! Register online at vbsmate.com/StPaulsLutheranBville or pick up a registration form in the narthex.

We are still looking for some volunteers! We need more guide leaders, nursery helpers and help in the kitchen! Interested? Talk to Katie Pisauro in church or email her at katiepisauro@gmail.com!



We are also looking for galvanized watering cans and buckets, bushel baskets and any other farm decor that we could borrow to be used as decor for the week! If you have anything please bring it June 26th! Thank you!

We are looking forward to another great week!

Katie Pisauro and Kim Schiffert



MAY 8TH

A great way to begin celebrating Mother's Day is to bring your Mom or, Mom, bring your kids to church and thank God for the blessing of being a family.

MAY

FOOD BANK ITEMS OF THE MONTH

The congregation has donated to the Food Bank throughout the year but the needs of those less fortunate continue. So please continue to bring nonperishable food items along to worship.

Each month we plan to feature a food item, but any item will be acceptable.

THANK YOU to all who brought canned soup for our monthly collection for the food bank.

During May our “food of the month” will be tuna fish or canned meat.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 1ST – Kentucky Derby Potluck

MAY 22ND – Church Music Sunday

MAY 22ND – Last day for Sunday School and end of year picnic

SPRING CONCERT

The Brandywine Heights High School Music Department is pleased to present our performances of our *Spring Concert* on Friday, May 6th at 3:00 p.m. (free for Senior Citizens and BHHS Staff) and Saturday, May 7th at 7:00 p.m. The event will feature the High School Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, Women’s Ensemble, Concert Band, and Jazz Ensemble.

Senior Citizens are welcome to attend free of charge on Friday! The general public can pre-purchase tickets for \$4.00 or \$5.00 at the door.

TREXLERTOWN SENIOR ASSOCIATION

The Trexlertown Seniors are looking for new members. We meet every Tuesday at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Our meetings start at 1:00 p.m. Some come a little early to socialize. Light refreshments are served.

From time to time we have a speaker come in. We play bingo, have trivia, play cards, pinochle and more. Once in a while we have entertainment with a piano player and a sing-a-long.

If you have any questions, stop in and attend one of our meetings.

THANK YOU NOTE

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank, we would like to thank you for your donation of \$100.00.

Because of your caring and sharing, we are able to feed those less fortunate in our community. We are currently serving between 200 and 250 families per week.

Again, thank you for your donation.

AAEFB

Margaret Rosenbeger, Corres. Sec.

'JUST KEEP SWIMMING ...'

In Athens, the apostle Paul responded to the people's worship of "an unknown god" by declaring, "[God] is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being'" (Acts 17:23, 27-28, NIV).



Author Diana Butler Bass echoes that sentiment: "If the water is invisible to the fish, is God, as the One in whom we swim, also invisible?" (*Grounded: Finding God in the World*, HarperOne).

I, in turn, am reminded of Dory, the blue tang fish in *Finding Nemo*. Feeling overwhelmed and alone, she chants to herself, "Just keep swimming, just keep swimming." When we feel alone and can't see God, it's not that he doesn't exist or can't be known; rather, he surrounds us so closely that sometimes we miss the fact. God is the Living Water in which we swim. Sometimes we need to just keep swimming until we become aware of that again.

—Heidi Mann

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Leroy Bortz
Dorothea Grammes
Helen Kessler
Bill Knoll
Martha Lindenmuth

Bill Moyer
Katherine Plarr
Kathy Shryock
Larry Wingard

MAY



1 Mason Sallit	12 David Reinhard
2 Gretchen Gotthard	15 Neali Feimster
4 Esther Nolfé	17 Peggy Apgar
5 Jesse Eisenhard	17 Carole Beck
7 Landon Wagner	18 Kyana Maslany
7 Carol Weiser	18 Robert Yeager
8 Bob Bruchak	22 Sophia Mesko
9 Richard Spengler	22 Warren Schlenker
11 Aubrie Pavlacka	25 Joseph Thompson
11 Jeff Waltemyer	26 Reno Thomas
12 Brynn Reeger	



MAY

1 Susan & Al Ferguson
8 Ken & Janine Ritter
12 Anthony & Heidi Sokol
19 Jim & Joyce Eisenhard
19 Eric & Robin Montgomery
21 Anthony & Katie Pisauro
23 John & Heather Caricari
24 Rosalie & Timothy Gallagher
27 Ethan & Vanessa Eiswerth
27 Kevin & Carli Henickek
29 David & Patrice Walters

OF GREATEST WORTH

Not what I get, but what I give,
this be the gauge by which I live.
Not merely joys that come my way,
but the help I give to those astray.
Not the rewards of money and fame,
but the loads I lift in mankind's name.
This be the pay at the end of the day,
not what I keep, but what I give away.

—Author unknown

give!

CLOSE TO GOD

I can take my telescope and look millions and millions of miles into space.
But I can lay it aside, go into my room, shut the door, get down on my
knees in earnest prayer, and see more of heaven and get closer to God than
I can assisted by all the telescopes and material agencies on earth.

—Isaac Newton

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS**

MAY 25, 2016

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR
ARTICLES SUBMITTED TO
THE CHURCH OFFICE
BY THIS DATE.**



MAY 30, 2016

CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000
HOSPITAL CODE: #321
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE
EMAIL: stpauls.trexlertown@gmail.com
Website: www.stpaulsbbville.org

STAFF

Pastor..... The Reverend Laura L. Stoneback
Organist/Choir Director Mrs. Judy Noll
Handbell Director..... Mr. Richard Steltz
Parish Secretary Mrs. Cindy Krasnansky
Sexton Mr. Charlie Meitzler