

# PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Breinigsville, PA

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**JULY/AUGUST 2016**



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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Dear Friends,

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, I preached a sermon in response to the shootings at the Pulse Club in Orlando. The words that I spoke did not side with any political party and did not speak to changing any current laws. The words I spoke were based on our relationship with Jesus Christ and his teachings as witnessed in the New Testament.

I was amazed at the reaction to the sermon. Not because so many of you gave positive comments, but that so many people heard what I said. What this showed me is that there is a need to put our faith to use in our daily life. We need to know what we as followers of Jesus Christ are called to do, and how we are to live out our faith.

In a world where so much is in chaos, many are losing hope. Our fears are running high, and we just don't see how things can or will get any better. We can blame so many things/people for the way our world is, but placing blame does not bring about peace and it does not restore hope. Peace and hope are gifts given to us by God through Jesus Christ, crucified and risen. God sent Jesus into this world to live among chaos. Jesus witnessed divisions among people; divisions based on geography, race, religion and social status. Jesus saw first-hand the pain, hurt and brokenness caused by those divisions. Jesus saw sin at work in the world. Back in Jesus's day and in our world today, it might appear that sin is/was winning. But God has/had other plans. Love wins. Jesus came to love all people, to restore dignity, to offer grace, and to be hope and light in a world of darkness.

Sometimes I think we forget that Jesus rose from the dead, that Jesus and the Spirit of God is alive among and within us, and therefore we can be people of hope. We are saved from the power of sin and as God so graciously loved and saved us, God is counting on us to love and offer that same grace to others. Hatred is a learned behavior. Hatred causes division and fear. We are people who are loved and who are called to share love with all others. If we want evil to stop in our world, we need to change our hearts. We need to be as Jesus, and share love and hope and peace.

Growing with you in faith,  
Pastor Laura

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

You know how each of us must go to the doctor from time to time. Well, our hand bells are currently at their doctor. After years of service, it was time for them to have a check up and be refurbished so they would be ready for many more years of making music. The photos included in the newsletter are pictures of the tour of the Malmark Company.

Throughout the summer, we offer the opportunity for people to share their special gifts of music during the worship service. If you have an instrument or are interesting in singing, please see Judy Noll.

Throughout the summer, you will notice that on some days, we will use a well-known hymn as the hymn of praise. We hope you will enjoy this change and reflect on the words of the hymn as you praise God for all of God's blessings.

## AUGUST SMALL GROUP STUDY

The last week of June, we finished a 12 week study entitled "Reformation Roots". In this study we learned about Martin Luther and various other reformers who broke away from the Catholic Church. We explored the theological debates which often centered on Holy Communion and baptism. We learned how various dominations were formed and the differences between them.

After taking the month of July off, we will begin a new course written by Adam Hamilton entitled Half Truths: God helps those who help themselves and other things the Bible doesn't say. This course will address things that every one of us probably said, and we believe they are written in the bible. I invite you to come and join in the learning, the fun and fellowship as together we explore via DVD and conversation, what the bible does, and does not say. All are welcome. We will meet the 5 Monday mornings in August at 9:30 AM.

## A GOOD PLACE

This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in.

—Theodore Roosevelt

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School will resume on September 11<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to another great year of learning about the love of God and how we can best love one another. Will you help our children by answering the call to teach a class? If you are interested in teaching, please speak to Taryne Williams or Pastor Laura. More details about the first day of Sunday School will be sent out in the near future.

## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

On July 17<sup>th</sup>, there will be a patriotic potluck in the pavilion, weather permitting. Join us as we celebrate our freedom as Americans by wearing red, white, and blue and incorporating the patriotic theme into your dish! There will be patriotic games and decorations, as well. All together now, “Oh, say can you see by the dawn’s early light...”!

Come to the summer carnival and potluck on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Bring picnic themed foods. Kids will enjoy the games, such as bean bag toss and duck pond, and get excited for the new school year as summer comes to a close.

## THE MASTER PUZZLER

In *Laughing in the Dark* (Howard Books), Christian comedian Chonda Pierce calls God the Master Puzzler, because “in him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:17). In his infinite wisdom, God “can organize the colors better than anyone (Have you seen a sunset lately?) He knows where to fit every shape and size (Have you seen a mountain range?).”



Until God places the last piece, the final picture is a mystery to us. But in the meantime, God offers order and purpose, providing his law as the puzzle’s edges.

Pierce encourages people to let the “Master Puzzler” take over when life gets messy. Like the prophet Jeremiah, we can cry, “GOD, pick up the pieces. Put me back together again. You are my praise!” (17:14, *The Message*).

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“Pray, and let God worry.” —Martin Luther

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Fireworks, sponsored by the Schmoyer Funeral Home will be held in Breinigsville Park on Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> with a rain date of Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

On July 16<sup>th</sup>, The Goodwill Fire Company of Trexlertown will celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a 4 county parade. The parade will begin at our church and go to the UCC church. The parade steps off at 1:00 p.m. Special events will be held at the Trexlertown Cycling Center throughout the day. Come and celebrate with the fire company and thank them for all they do for our community.

## PRAYER CHAIN



A note to let you know that if anyone is in need of additional prayers for someone in your family or someone you know, please call Judy Walker at [610 351-6040](tel:6103516040) or cell # [610 573 7117](tel:6105737117). She will start the prayer chain by calling the people who serve on that committee. They in turn will keep extra prayers going for that person. All we need is a name of someone in need of prayer, a reason does not have to be given as to why you want the extra prayers.

## GRACE IN, GRACE OUT

The computer acronym GIGO — “garbage in, garbage out” — describes how putting wrong code into a machine will lead to faulty output. Jesus offers a similar lesson in Matthew 15: “What comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person” (v. 18, ESV).

GIGO works the other way, too. If we put good things (including the good news of salvation) “in” our hearts, Jesus’ goodness will shine “out” through our lives. And when God’s grace enters and changes us, we’ll also reach out and share that good news with others.

“I really only love God as much as I love the person I love the least.”

—Dorothy Day

## WELCA

Two members of our WELCA group attended the 27<sup>th</sup> WELCA Convention, June 11, 2016, Trinity Lutheran Church, Lehighton, PA from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

- There was a Worship Service with Holy Communion in the morning.
- A.M. Workshop was on **Soul Keeping**, discussing Will, Mind, Body, Soul; the parts of a human being.
- P.M. Workshop was **Awareness and Prevention of Human Trafficking**. This affects approximately 4 million people per year [children, girls, boys, and adults] worldwide.
- Closing was a trio of local ladies **Friends of the Heart Presentation – At Any Age, At Any Stage: Celebrating the Christian Life** with song, skits, and testimonials.

WELCA has their next meeting scheduled for September 14, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.

Submitted by Sharon Bortz

### "PRAYER AT SUNRISE"



O greater Maker of this thy great sun,  
Give me the strength this one day's race to run,  
Fill me with light, fill me with sun-like strength,  
Fill me with joy to rob the day its length.  
Light from within, light that will outward shine,  
Strength to make strong some weaker heart than mine,  
Joy to make glad each soul that feels its touch;  
Great Father of the sun, I ask this much.

—James Weldon Johnson

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“Always be a little kinder than necessary.”

—J.M. Barrie

## **DESTINATION DEVOTIONS**

Planning a summer trip? Take along a Scripture passage befitting your vacation to use for devotions and prayer time (all NIV below):

- In the mountains: “The mountains and hills will burst into song before you” (Isaiah 55:12).
- At a lake, perhaps on a fishing trip: “They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ‘Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will send you out to fish for people’” (Matthew 4:18-19).
- Near an ocean or river: “Let the sea resound ... let the rivers clap their hands” (Psalm 98:7-8).
- In the desert: “They looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud” (Exodus 16:10).
- In the woods: “Blessed is the one ... whose delight is in the law of the LORD .... That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season” (Psalm 1:1-3).
- In the flatlands: “‘My food,’ said Jesus, ‘is to do the will of him who sent me .... I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest’” (John 4:34-35).
- On a “staycation” close to home: “Love the LORD your God .... These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ... Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road .... Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates” (Deuteronomy 6:5-9).

## **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.

## **JULY AND AUGUST 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 pasta for our monthly collection for the food bank.

During July and August our “food of the month” will be any kind of canned vegetables or canned fruit.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- July 16 The Goodwill Fire Company of Trexlertown parade at 1:00 p.m.
- July 17 Patriotic potluck
- August 28 End of summer carnival & potluck

### **THE GIFT OF GRACE**

Grace is something you can never get but only be given. The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn't have been complete without you. Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. It's for you I created the universe. I love you.

There's only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you reach out and take it. Maybe being able to reach and take it is a gift too.

—Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*



## **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 8 Bags & 1 box of food.

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.

### **AT THE CENTER OF IT ALL**

Psalm 118:8, the verse that falls in the middle of the Protestant Bible, reads, "It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in humans" (NIV).

The center of God's Word reminds us to make God the center of our lives! No other person or possession can fulfill or save us. Only God is a safe, certain refuge, and we grow closer to him by grounding ourselves in his Word and his will.

### **A SMALL LAUGH**

"God warned a man named Lot to take his wife and flee out of the city," said the Sunday school teacher, "but Lot's wife looked back and was turned to salt."

A curious boy then asked, "What happened to the flea?"

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

Leroy Bortz  
Janson Durback  
Deloris Kline  
Katherine Plarr  
Larry Wingard

Sandi Christoffersen  
Jesse Eisenhard  
Bill Knoll  
Kathy Shryock

Richard Danner  
Helen Kessler  
Bill Moyer  
Doris Wilkers

## JULY



5 John Kropf	21 Ed Pearson
5 Heidi Sokol	24 Ada Bennicoff
6 Aaliyan Thomas	24 Aman Thomas
6 Stanley Younger	25 Kim Bruchak
7 Jackson Eisenhard	25 Sienna Burley
9 Kathy Granger	25 Sophia Gotthard
9 Dorothy Moll	25 Mindy Inman
10 Kathy Maslany	25 Kylee Maslany
14 Briana Mironov	26 Kim Pearson
15 Melody Pavlacka	26 Marilyn Thomas
15 Patrice Walters	27 Michelle Kirn
16 Sarabeth Mesko	27 Paulette Mecherly
16 Matthew Schiffert	28 Anita Eisenhard
19 Leroy Bortz	28 John Thomas
19 Olivia Gotthard	28 Earl Wenz



## JULY

11 James & Neali Feimster  
16 Bob & Kim Pearson  
18 Philip & Tonya Wagner  
21 Mark & Kathy Maslany  
22 Doris & Wallace Fenner  
24 Jeremy & Jennifer Schmoyer  
31 Joseph & Sandra Stanton

## ALL ABOARD!

When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer.

—Corrie ten Boom

## AUGUST



- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Robert Sensinger   | 18 Cleo Gehman      |
| 3 Olivia Eisenhard   | 18 Robin Montgomery |
| 4 Michele Rampen     | 18 Doris Wilkers    |
| 7 Katherine Plarr    | 19 Amy Morgan       |
| 8 Kay Schlenker      | 22 William Heminiz  |
| 9 George Reeger      | 24 Riley Williams   |
| 11 David Apgar       | 25 Jeffrey Heminiz  |
| 12 Joseph Mironov    | 25 Eric Montgomery  |
| 12 Gloria Selig      | 26 Joseph Stanton   |
| 14 Douglas Inman     | 27 Rebecca Yeager   |
| 15 Martha Lindenmuth |                     |

## AUGUST



- 6 Joe & Amy Mutis
- 7 James & Judy Kresley
- 8 Linford & Joyce Bastian
- 10 Tom & June Kellogg
- 11 John & Diane Kropf
- 16 Ginger & Bill Hallock
- 21 John & Marilyn Thomas
- 26 Robert & Kathy Granger
- 31 Joe & Felicia Flores

## PASTORAL ACTS

### FUNERALS

On Saturday, June 11, 2016 Pastor Laura presided at the funeral of Jesse Wheeler.

On Monday, June 13, 2016 Pastor Laura presided at the funeral of Dorothea Grammes.

We pray God's peace and comfort to be with the families of Jesse & Dorothea.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER IS

**AUGUST 14, 2016**

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



**CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000**

**HOSPITAL CODE: #321**

**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

**EMAIL: [stpauls.trexlerstown@gmail.com](mailto:stpauls.trexlerstown@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.stpaulsbbv.org](http://www.stpaulsbbv.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