

# PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BREINIGSVILLE, PA

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**SEPTEMBER 2016**



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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Dear Friends,

What a wonderful day! How do I begin to thank you all for the love and support you showered me with for the anniversary of my ordination? It truly was a surprise! I can't believe that you all kept such a secret for such a long time! Your attendance at worship and the luncheon was greatly appreciated. The gifts of the special music, the flowers, the stole, and some extra funds are all gratefully received. Thank you so much. I have been so blessed in my 25 years of serving as a Pastor to have two wonderful congregations. Both churches have taught me so much and together, I believe we have touched many with the love of Jesus Christ.

I have said it before, and I will say it again. St. Paul's is a wonderful church. Serving as Pastor here is a blessing. I love the friendliness of the congregation, the faithfulness in worship life, the many who reach out to others in sharing the love of Christ and the willingness of people of all ages to continue to grow in their knowledge of Scripture.

I am excited to see what God will be doing in the days and years ahead. As I look back on my life, I don't think I could have ever imagined that I would have been so blessed. Thank you for your partnership in ministry.

Gratefully,

Pastor Laura

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC



It is hard to believe summer is just about over. Thanks to all those who provided special music throughout the summer months. As summer comes to a close, it is time to get back in the swing of choir rehearsals. Both the vocal and the hand bell choirs will begin rehearsals after Labor Day. If you wish to join either choir, please speak to Judy Noll or Dick Steltz.



We hope that you are enjoying the upgraded lighting in the nave. Many have commented that they can now see! If the lighting in your 'normal' spot is not what you would like, try moving a pew up or back. Hopefully, everyone can find a right spot.

As always, if you have any suggestions or concerns that involve the worship life of the congregation, please feel free to talk to the Pastor or any church council member. We continue to look forward to seeing you in worship!

## YARD SALE TO BE HELD ON THE CHURCH GROUNDS



Gather your extra stuff and come bring a table to the church on September 17<sup>th</sup> and make a few dollars. All are welcome to set up a table for free. The church has a very limited supply of tables, and if you want to use one of them, you must sign up...first come, first serve. Just remember, whatever does not sell, you **must** take home with you.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – SEPTEMBER 2016

September is an exciting time for our Sunday school program, it's the beginning of a new year! We will kick it off with Rally Day on Sunday, September 11.

This year, all Sunday School children will participate in a service project to mark our first Sunday School activity. On Rally Day we will assemble snack/goodie bags for members of the Trexlertown Fire Company. These packs will be given as a sign of our appreciation for all they do for the community, and in honor of Patriot's Day. First responders can grab these packs when they head out on a call or when they return from one. We will also provide them with a HUGE card containing messages of appreciation and thanks.

As part of this project, we are asking for donations of the following items for our packs. A donation box is in the Narthex. All items are needed by no later than August 28. Any assistance is greatly appreciated!

Single serve packages of the following are needed:

- Cookies
- Chips/Crackers
- Granola Bars
- Bottled Water
- Lifesavers
- Gum
- Hershey's Kisses
- Tootsie Roll
- Mints
- Smarties

Following Rally Day, we will begin Sunday School classes. This year we have four classes averaging 10 children each. We are really growing! We are blessed to have full-time teachers for each class – a GIGANTIC blessing to say the least!

As we prepare for and continue through the year please keep these children and teachers (Amy Brenfleck, Sandi Wagaman, Sandi Christoffersen and Tom Kellogg) in your prayers and help us encourage them, and their families, as we work together to share God's love.

## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Live  
*simply*

The theme of this year's Stewardship program is ELCA's *Live Simply*, and will kick off on September 18. We should not think of stewardship as what we do with our money, but rather – how we live our lives. Life in today's world is full of distractions that rob us of time and attention, and can encourage unbridled

consumerism. As a result, we can become slaves to our possessions and to working extended hours in order to pay for it all. The *Live Simply* program explains how the opposite of being enslaved by possessions is contentment and generosity. Generosity can present in many forms – generous giving of time, generous giving of money, generous giving of love, and generous thanksgiving. Join in our journey of simplifying and being called to action in response to God's many gifts to us.

On October 9 we will conclude our program with a chance for you to respond to God's blessings by completing a commitment card, with your pledge of financial support during 2017. After worship, we will celebrate by sharing a free, catered meal with our church family. We will begin handing out reservation cards on September 18, so be sure to fill one out and reserve your seat at the table.

*"We buy things we don't need - with money we don't have - to impress people we don't know."-- Lynn A. Miller, author of *The Power of Enough: Finding Contentment by Putting Stuff in its Place.**

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

*“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.” --I Timothy 6:18*

Generosity never stands alone. It is always associated with other traits. It is a symptom, not an independent entity.

Find a generous person and you will find contentment, gratitude, humility, love, and compassion. The person cannot help but be generous because everything he is and has is tied up in relation to God. The generous person, for example, might be so thankful for the family van that a natural expression of their stewardship would be loaning it to the youth group for a weekend outing.

Contentment is a key factor to generosity. It walks hand-in-hand with gratitude because only when a person no longer desires for self is generosity perfected. Maybe that's why Paul is speaking to the rich in this passage. In the preceding verse, Paul instructs Timothy, “Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.” The product of arrogance and trusting in riches is to hoard wealth and continue to be greedy. It's so easy to want more and more, isn't it? That's why Paul commands the rich to adjust their behavior and elevate their motives because greed, to any degree, closes the door to generosity.

Many years ago, I wrote “A Page of Priorities” at the top of the page in my Bible where I Timothy 6 appears. I encourage all of us to be content and grateful. May generosity overflow from our cup of humility, gratitude, contentment, and love. Let's take hold of life that is truly life!

**Used with permission from Sunshine Community Church, Grand Rapids, MI**

## **FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE SUMMER CARNIVAL AMISH HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT**

Our Summer Carnival is quickly approaching. As a reminder, it is on August 28th. All are welcome to come for hot dogs and popcorn. There will be eight different games for kids to play and win tickets. They will have plenty of prizes from which to choose! There will be cotton candy too. Bring your kids to gear up for the new school year and Sunday School, which begins on September 11, 2016.

Luck, skill, or a little of both. Do you have what it takes to win the annual Amish horseshoe tournament? Come and find out on September 18th. The tournament immediately follows the potluck lunch, which is after worship.

### **LUTHER: THE MOVIE**

Yes, it's movie time. On Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> we will be watching a movie based on the life of Martin Luther. Movieguide has called this movie, "Engrossing, Compelling and Powerful". The movie is rated PG-13 due to disturbing images of violence. Being a person who stands up for their faith has never been easy. All are welcome to come and watch the Luther movie. Show time begins at 9:30 A.M.

### **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.



## LUTHERAN STORIES REFORMATION 500

As we prepare to celebrate the 500 anniversary of the Reformation, it would be fun to join our brothers and sisters throughout our Synod by sharing our stories of faith. Below you will find a list of questions. Pick **one** of these questions and write a paragraph or so that shares your experience. Like Martin Luther, it is time to speak up and to share our faith. Please answer a question and turn it in to Pastor Laura.

1. Share a time when you experienced God's grace, God's unconditional love
2. Share a Bible passage that speaks to you and explain why it's important to you.
3. Share a story of how you have experienced God as Creator.
4. Share a story of how you have experienced God as Savior.
5. Share a story of how you have experienced the Holy Spirit.
6. Share a story of a meaningful worship experience.
7. Share a story of how your baptism or your experience of Holy Communion affects/affected you at a particular time in your life.
8. Share a story of how you use your gifts to serve others in your everyday life.
9. Share a story of how you have been God's hands at work in the world.
10. Share a story of when you experienced forgiveness from someone.
11. What Bible character OR character in a movie, book, or play demonstrates to you that no person is all good nor all bad, but a little of both. Tell a little of that character's story.
12. Share a story of how you got involved in addressing an injustice.



## **W-ELCA**

A NEPA Synodical Women's Organization Transitional Board Meeting was held on August 13, 2016. This was Joyce Eisenhard's last meeting since her tenure serving on the board has come to an end, but she will be assisting with the Fall Fun Event. The board has some new assignments: Sharon Bortz was appointed secretary, Suzan Andrews will continue to do the mailing lists and compile reports, Kathy Mathews will continue to publish The Flame and serve on the Discipleship Committee. Sandi Wagaman is a board member and serves on the Justice Committee.

Our September W-ELCA meeting has been rescheduled to September 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. for scheduling reasons. Our Bible study from the Gather magazine is entitled "Jonah and the terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day".

Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> is the W-ELCA NE Penn Synod Fall Fun Event at Union Lutheran Church in Schnecksville. Registration forms will be available shortly. There is no fee for this event. Just come and have fun!

October 8<sup>th</sup> is the Lehigh Fall Cluster meeting to be held at St. Timothy's in Allentown. The topic will be Emergency Preparedness.

A Cluster Planning Meeting is scheduled for November 5<sup>th</sup> in Ashland. Sandi Wagaman and Sharon Bortz will be attending this event.

Early Registration for the 2017 Triennial to be held in Minneapolis, MN starts in September. A short meeting for anyone planning to attend the Triennial will be held after the Fall Fun Event.

Submitted by Sharon Bortz

## **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.

## **SEPTEMBER 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 non-perishable food will be acceptable.

**THANK YOU** to all who brought canned vegetables and canned fruit for our monthly collection for the food bank.

During September our “food of the month” will be peanut butter and jelly.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

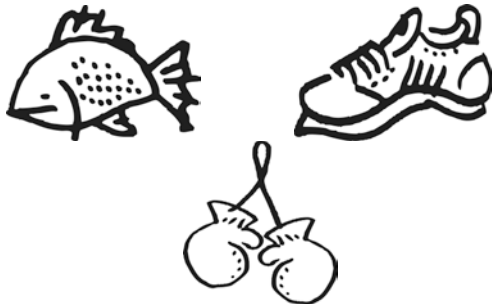
September 4 – New Members will be received into membership

September 17 – 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Yard Sale

### **BIBLE QUIZ**

Which of the following sports does Paul use metaphorically to describe the Christian life?

- A. Fishing
- B. Running a race
- C. Boxing
- D. Both B and C
- E. All of the above



**Answer on page 15**

# **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 NOTES**

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank, we would like to thank you for your donation of 2 boxes and 8 bags 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.

Dear Rev. Stoneback & Members,

On behalf of the Citizens' Hose Co. Band of Smyrna, Delaware, we would like to thank you for your "hospitality" in opening your lovely church, on Saturday July 16<sup>th</sup>, so that we could remain cool and comfortable while waiting for the parade to start. We enjoyed marching in the Trexlertown parade and visiting in your area. Again, thank you!

Members of Citizens' Hose Co. Band

# **CONTACT** **information**



Have you recently moved? Discontinued your home phone? Changed your email address? Changed your cell phone number?

If you have done any of these things, please contact the church office so we can update our records.

## **MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

The following memorial contributions have been received in memory of Dorothea Grammes:

Mae Clay  
Roland Grammes  
Margaret Urland & Deanna  
Jean Ann Werst  
Doreen Yoachim & family

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

Leroy Bortz  
Bill Moyer  
Larry Wingard

Helen Kessler  
Katherine Plarr

Dawn Moyer  
Kathy Shryock

## SEPTEMBER



1 Kellan Feimster	21 Calise Eiswerth
1 Madelynn Walters	23 Madeline MacMechan
2 Nicholas Theodore	25 Luca Caricari
5 Lauren Mironov	26 Carlene Brumbach
6 Joyce Eisenhard	26 Steve Mesko
6 Nicole Wiswesser	27 Jennifer Bentsen
10 Jason Christoffersen	27 Sharon Heminitz
11 Steph Wagaman	27 Carli Henichek
16 Judy Szukics	28 Sue Firth
18 Jim Eisenhard, Sr.	28 Paula Smith
20 Lisa Newhard	29 Priya Thomas
21 Emily Danner	



## SEPTEMBER

5 Skip & Anita Eisenhard  
10 Carol & Richard Derr-Breinig  
11 Mindy & Doug Inman  
20 Earl & Irene Wenz  
23 Karen & Pat Feimster  
26 Warren & Kay Schlenker

## PASTORAL ACTS

### FUNERALS

On Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup> Pastor Laura officiated at the funeral of William Sebring.

On Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> Pastor Laura officiated at the funeral of Viola Schmoyer.

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL HUMOR

- Summer is over. Time to officially remember what day of the week it is!
- “Labor Day is a glorious holiday because your child will be going back to school the next day. It would have been called Independence Day, but that name was already taken.” (Bill Dodds)
- Receiving new textbooks, one student to another: “Psst. How do you turn this thing on?”
- Parent: “What did you learn today?” Kindergartner: “Not enough. I have to go back tomorrow.”

## PRAYER WARRIORS

After tragedies, natural disasters and terrorism, people now commonly turn to social media to request prayers. Although it can feel “jarring” to see “so many references to the divine in spaces normally reserved for vacation photos,” writes journalist Eleanor Barkhorn, it’s a modern-day version of the New Testament’s reminders to pray constantly and in all circumstances.

Over the years, churches have encouraged members to pray through letters, phone chains, prayer breakfasts and prayer groups. “With that context in mind,” Barkhorn writes, “Facebook shouldn’t cheapen prayer any more than the Postal Service or the telephone does.”

Russell Moore of the Southern Baptist Convention says, “Asking for prayer via Twitter or Facebook is no different than calling someone and saying, ‘We should really pray for this.’ ... Social media can be a tremendous force for good in alerting people to things they can be praying about right away.”

## HEAVENLY VISION

Known as the “queen of gospel song writers,” Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) wrote more than 9,000 Christian hymns, including “Blessed Assurance” and “Safe in the Arms of Jesus.” Blind from a young age, she developed a love for poetry and Scripture, memorizing about five chapters of the Bible each week. Crosby was the first woman to speak in the U.S. Senate, lobbying to support education for the blind. She also was an abolitionist who made friends with several presidents.

A well-meaning pastor once told Crosby, “It is a great pity that the Master did not give you sight when he showered so many other gifts upon you.”

She responded that her blindness was a blessing she wouldn’t wish away. “When I get to heaven,” Crosby said, “the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Savior.”

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

—Nelson Mandela

## BIBLE QUIZ ANSWER

Answer: D (See 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.)

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER IS**

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2016**

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

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