

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
BREINIGSVILLE, PA

MARCH 2017

• A S H •

Wednesday



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Reverend Laura L. Stoneback, Pastor
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Dear Friends,

I had to stop. For a few days, I had to stop watching the news, and dwelling on information posted on Facebook. You see, I found myself getting depressed. Hatred lies, distortion seemed to be running wild, and truthfully, it was hard to figure out if any information was true. Yes, I am speaking of our current political situation and the division I sense growing in our nation. I purposely watched a conservative news channel followed by a more liberal channel, and found it amazing that both could report 'news' with such different perspectives. I knew I needed to change channels.

And so I did. I channeled my thoughts, time and energy into a different viewpoint, one written thousands of years ago, but one I still value as the Living Word of God. During this season of Epiphany, most of our Gospel lessons were from Matthew chapter 5, Jesus Sermon on the Mount. Together, we heard the word of God where we are challenged to live out the blessings that God has given us by loving the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul and mind, and our neighbor as ourselves. We are reminded in Scripture that 'neighbor' is anyone we see in need. We are reminded that the ones who are blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the peacemakers, the pure in heart, the merciful and the meek. In this sermon, Jesus goes on to teach that we are to love our enemies, to not seek retaliation, and to pray for those who persecute us. Wow. I do not know if I can ever move on from this channel. The directives are hard, seemingly impossible, yet they come with hope and blessings. Jesus says; do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Jesus reminds us we are to pray, pray for God's Kingdom to come, and for God to use us to bring forth that Kingdom.

So, I ask you to join me in prayer. Let us pray for God's kingdom and God's will to be done. Let us pray that we would be open to God using us to help usher in the Kingdom of God here on earth. Let us acknowledge that all are created in the image of God, the One who came to save the World.

Growing with you in faith,
Pastor Laura

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

The season of Lent is upon us. I tell you this, because if you go into the stores, you will not see a special section with Lenten displays and items. (Unless you go to the seafood department in the grocery store). The world does not seem to notice the season of Lent; in fact, the Lenten season seems to go against the teaching of the world. While the word encourages us to be strong, capable, independent, and self-seeking, the season of Lent reminds us that we are not strong, and too often, not capable of doing the very things we were created to do. During Lent, we focus on our need for God, for the gift of salvation, and our own unworthiness to receive such a gift. Our Lenten focus is strengthened as we spend more time in prayer, as we seek to serve others and share with those in need, what we ourselves might like to have.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1st. We will have worship services at 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM. The season of Lent continues through Holy Saturday, April 15th. Lent is 40 days in length with Sunday's always observed as days of resurrection celebration. I look forward to worshipping with you throughout the season of Lent, and then, joining with you for the wonderful Easter celebration.

SOUPER BOWL RESULTS

St. Paul's took part in the national Souper Bowl day by donating cash or canned goods by voting for their favorite teams in the Super Bowl.

Through your contributions we collected a total of \$359.66 (\$182.11 for the Falcons & \$177.55 for the Patriots) for The Lehigh County Conference of Churches to Help The Hungry.

Thank you everyone for your donations to help stop hunger.

SMALL GROUP: GRACE AND ERNEST GO TO CHURCH

Who are Grace and Ernest, you might be wondering? Well, they could be you. They are Lutherans who are reflecting on some topics they have heard in a class and are having a conversation about the learnings and their worship life. On Monday mornings during Lent, we will have some fun ease dropping on Grace and Ernest as they sort through some reformation topics. You are invited to join in the fun and fellowship and learning. The new course featuring Grace and Ernest will begin on Monday, March 6th at 9:30 AM.

FELLOWSHIP

On Sunday, March 12th we will gather for a pot-luck lunch. Bring a favorite dish to share. After lunch, those who wish are invited to play Bunco. Come and see how the dice roll.

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS

Guess what? It is time to place your order for Easter flowers. An order form is available in this newsletter. They will also be available on our website and on the table in the narthex. You can also call me in the office at 610-398-700 or send me an email at our new email address of – office@stpaulsbbville.org.

The **DEADLINE TO ORDER IS SUNDAY, MARCH 19TH**.

SNOW/CANCELLATION INFORMATION



Winter advisory...Please be sure to check St. Paul's website, www.stpaulsbbville.org or WFMZ storm center to see if any church service or event is cancelled due to snow or ice.

Women of the ELCA

Our February meeting was on the 8th, we discussed:

- The Spring Justice Retreat, **Words Have Power**, March 25th, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Kutztown, from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Registration deadline is March 11; donation \$10. Keynote Speaker is Barbara Connolly – The Power of Words: Moving from Division to Healing. Breakout groups on guided meditation by Pastor Hamm; and Tai Chi or Chair Yoga TBD.
- Lenten Breakfast, March 8, Daisy Pearson Residence at 9:30 a.m. Please see Daisy if you are interested in attending the March meeting at her house.
- April TBD, Lehigh Cluster Meeting at St. Paul's, topic: Vaccinations.
- W-ELCA Synod Convention, May 20th, Hope Lutheran Church, Cherryville. More details next month.
- Our Bible Study: Galatians Christian Faith and Christian Freedom by Kathryn A. Kleinhans.

Submitted by Sharon Bortz

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.

THE KEY OF THE DAY

Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night.

—George Herbert

BE AWARE OF THIS LATEST PHONE SCAM!

It's not a Verizon commercial: If you receive a phone call from someone asking **“can hear me you?” hang up.** You're a potential victim in the latest scam circulating around the U. S.

Virginia police are now warning about the scheme, which also sparked warnings by Pennsylvania authorities late last year. The “can you hear me” con is actually a variation on earlier scams aimed at getting the victim to say the word “yes” in a phone conversation. The affirmative response is recorded by the fraudster and used to authorize unwanted charges on a phone or utility bill or on a purloined credit card.

“You say ‘yes,’ it gets recorded and they say that you have agreed to something,” said Susan Grant, director of consumer protection for the Consumer Federation of America. **“I know that people think it's impolite to hang up, but it's a good strategy.”**

THANK YOU

Dear Friends at St. Paul's,

Thank you for your many well wishes, visits, flowers, cards and most importantly your prayers following my recent surgery. I also have been frequently comforted by the lovely prayer shawl I received after returning home. All of these acts of kindness have kept up my spirits as I recover. It is a slow process but I am blessed to have the support and love of my friends at St. Paul's.

God bless,
Rosemary

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1st Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

Services at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

April 9th Palm Sunday

April 13th Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m. worship

April 14th Good Friday 10:30 a.m. worship

April 16th Easter 6:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. (No Sunday School)

MARCH FOOD BANK ITEM 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 in peanut butter and jelly for our monthly collection for the food bank.

During March our “food of the month” will be Macaroni & Cheese.



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.

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.

GOD'S HANDS

Our life is like the dial of a clock. The hands are God's hands, passing over and over again — the short hand of discipline and the long hand of mercy. Slowly and surely, the hand of discipline must pass, and God speaks at each strike. But over and over passes the hand of mercy, showering down sixty-fold of blessing for each stroke of discipline or trial. And both hands are fastened to one secure point: the great, unchanging heart of a God of love.



—Virginia Brandt Berg

TRUE FRIENDSHIP



A true friend knows your weaknesses but shows you your strengths; feels your fears but fortifies your faith; sees your anxieties but frees your spirit; recognizes your disabilities but emphasizes your possibilities.

—William Arthur Ward

‘A DIFFERENT BEAUTIFUL’

Brenna Westlake, now 5, was born with a condition that makes her skin grow too fast, become thick and inflexible, and look red and scaly. While managing Brenna’s complex care and helping her master developmental milestones, her parents have made new discoveries about beauty.

“Sometimes the most beautiful things ... come from the unexpected parts of life that encourage us to search a little harder to find where the beauty lies — to put aside preconceived notions about what beautiful is and what it isn’t,” writes Courtney Westlake in *A Different Beautiful* (Shiloh Run Press).

“There is a different beautiful than the perfection our culture often worships. That beautiful is found not when we open our eyes but rather when we open our hearts. That different beautiful is found in the uniqueness God has bestowed on every single one of us and the gifts he has placed within us to be shared with the world.”

RELENTLESS PRAYERS

Are you reluctant to bring the same prayers to your heavenly Father over and over? Maybe you don’t want to trouble God; after all, he already knows what you’re going to say. Plus, you’re not worthy to ask for anything!

If those thoughts surround you, think about Patrick, Ireland’s patron saint. At 16, he was dragged from his home to be a slave. Patrick tended sheep in the cold. Hungry and miserable, he begged God for mercy and [deliverance](#).

In his *Confessio*, Patrick recalls praying “a hundred times in the day and almost as many at night.” Without ceasing, he told God of his needs, wants, thanksgiving and confession. And God heard his prayers.

Pray relentlessly. God is always listening!

—MaryAnn Sundby

ABOUT THE LUTHERANS

Women and the Reformation

“I am prepared to lose everything, even life or limb. May God stand by me.” So wrote Argula von Grumbach (1492–1563/68?) from Bavaria, who found Martin Luther’s message of Christian freedom and equality empowering. This noble woman challenged an entire Catholic university in Ingolstadt in defense of Lutheran faith and a student persecuted for “Lutheran heresy.” This best-selling lay author with her letter-treatises eventually disappeared under pressure from male authorities. Luther considered her a valiant hero of faith.

The Protestant principles “scripture alone,” “grace alone,” and “priesthood of all believers” inspired women just like men to reengage Christian faith and find renewed spiritual meaning in their daily vocations. With the newly written catechisms and hymns, women were equipped to teach the revived faith to their households, where they exercised significant leadership in matters of religious practice. Women lost the monastic option as convents were closed in Protestant areas, but they benefited significantly from the education provided even for peasant girls.

Whereas the Reformation theology proclaimed equality in Christian love and freedom from human-made bonds, women were forbidden to preach or teach in public. Motherhood was presented to women as the holiest of callings, on a par with that of apostles and bishops. So women used creativity in embracing their domestic calling and the authority it brought along.

Katharine Schütz Zell (1498–1562), a widely published lay author who had no children of her own, identified herself with a calling of a “church mother.” In this role she exercised pastoral authority by the side of her pastor-husband in Strasbourg, even daring to preach at funerals. Her scintillating writings in defense of marriage may have caused an uproar, yet her pastoral texts and a hymnbook demonstrate her desire to promote ecumenical unity and to empower Christians to sing the gospel with new voices. Like von Grumbach, she also corresponded with Luther.

Another associate of Luther was Duchess Elisabeth von Braunschweig (1485–1555), who used her authority as the “mother of the people in her land” to implement Lutheran faith through legislation. Like her own mother earlier, Elisabeth had suffered exile from her Catholic husband and children once she confessed her faith in public by receiving the sacrament in a Lutheran rite. Her

advice to her son, whom she groomed as a Lutheran ruler, was that he should obey God, the emperor—and his mother.

Of all the Reformation mothers, the most famous is Luther's beloved Katharina von Bora (1499–1552). She won the heart and admiration of Luther, who had orchestrated the escape of Katharina and eleven other nuns from their convent. As his equal “partner in calamity,” Katharina mothered their six children and managed the intricate finances and other affairs of their bustling household. Luther admitted that next to the Holy Spirit, he obeyed his wife—“lord,” Katharina.

These and other mothers of faith took significant risks and endured criticism if not even persecution for their choices. Their involvement was crucial for the new faith to take root.

Kirsi Stjerna



Argula von Grumbach

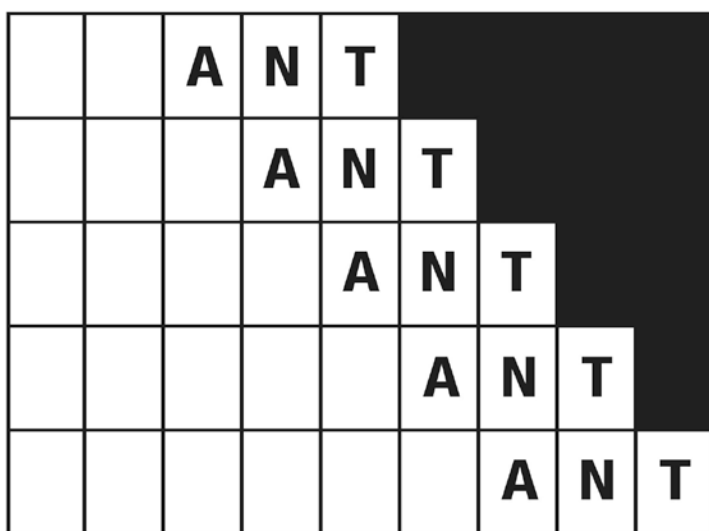


Katharina von Bora

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Puzzle!

Are you getting “antsy” for spring?
Using the clues provided, fill in the spaces to
complete these words that end in A-N-T.



CLUES (from top row to bottom row):

- ▼ An 8-foot man would be one
- ▼ To take back one’s testimony
- ▼ Opposite of a master
- ▼ Pertaining to, germane
- ▼ A drug that heightens the senses

Answers: giant, recant, servant, relevant, stimulant

‘FROM GREAT TO GOOD’

Jim Collins’ 2001 book *Good to Great* featured companies that had “made the leap” to greatness. Years later, many of them are no longer great; some aren’t even around.

Should Christians seek greatness? After all, our attempts to be great — wealthy, powerful, successful, famous — often become the “enemies” of our doing the good God commands.

God’s Word flips on its head the saying “good is the enemy of great.” The meek, Jesus teaches, will inherit the earth (Matthew 5:5). “Whoever would be great among you,” he says, “must be your servant” (Mark 10:43, ESV). One of Jesus’ most famous parables is called the Good Samaritan, not the Great Samaritan. And goodness, not greatness, is a fruit of the Spirit.

Christians and churches are called not to greatness but to doing good for the sake of the world. Let’s shift our focus “from great to good.”

—Based on “From Great to Good,” *Homiletics*, January-February 2017

ENTERING GLORY

Martyn Lloyd-Jones, who served as pastor of London’s Westminster Chapel for almost 30 years, couldn’t speak at the end of his life. Days before dying, he wrote, “Do not pray for my healing. Do not hold me back from the glory.”

The Apostle Paul was torn between staying on earth and going to heaven: “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ... I am hard pressed between the two” (Philippians 1:21, 23).

Neither of these men feared death; nor should any Christian. As Haddon Robinson said, “For those who trust Jesus Christ, death is not a sheriff dragging us off to court but a servant ushering us into the presence of a loving Lord.”

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

Karen Feimster
Martha Lindenmuth
Kathy Shryock
Marilyn Thomas

Helen Kessler
Heather Sedlak
Frank Szukics
Irene Wenz

Rosemary Lehman
Viola Seidel
Judy Szukics
Larry Wingard



6 Larry Schneider
8 Joe Flores
9 Kelly Kirn
9 Dawn Wertz
10 Roland Grammes
10 Bruce Wagaman
11 Rita Miller
12 Ruth Berghold
12 Susan Ferguson
12 Betty Moyer
12 Brittany Reeger
16 Jason Neme
17 Mitzi Younger
19 Maddox Rampen
20 Jen Schmoyer
20 Pamela Zahour
25 Matthew Morgenstern
27 Joyce Bastian
27 Liam Neme
28 Ellie Pisau



5 Richard & Emily Danner
27 Ronald & Jennifer Carlson
31 Jason & Sandi Christoffersen
31 Westley & Laurin Mironov

PASTORIAL ACTS BAPTISM

On Sunday, February 12th we were blessed to be witnesses to the baptism of Marlowe Kay Reeger who was made a child of God in this precious sacrament. Marlowe is the daughter of George & Brittany Reeger. Brynn is Marlowe's big sister.

NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, February 19th we received the following individuals as members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church: Cindy Mount (Baileigh), Larry & Mary Schneider, Paul & Denise Trainor and Dawn Wertz.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The following memorial contribution has been received in memory of
Dottie Moll:
Carole Beck



HEN

The hen represents Jesus' deep care and compassion even for those who killed prophets God had sent to them. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem," mourned Jesus shortly before his death. "How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!" (Matthew 23:37, ESV).



Sunday, March 12th turn you clocks ahead one hour

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS**

MARCH 12, 2017

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



CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000

HOSPITAL CODE: #321

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

EMAIL: office@stpaulsville.org

Website: www.stpaulsville.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