

# PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BREINIGSVILLE, PA

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**MAY 2017**



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



Dear Friends,

We are now into the season of Easter, a time of rejoicing, a time for celebrating and remembering the new life given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Upon hearing the good news of Jesus resurrection, some of the earliest followers asked: ‘What should we do now?’ The answer was “repent and believe the good news”. Repent in this case, does not mean just to say we are sorry for our sin, but rather to change our life. We are to turn away from self-interest and turn toward love of God and love of neighbor. Knowing how hard this would be for us, Jesus has gifted us with the power of the Holy Spirit. In the song, “Jesus Loves Me”, there is a phrase that says; “I am weak, but He is strong”. St Paul writes: I can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens me.” (Phil 4:23) The power of the resurrection, the power of God’s love poured out for us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is a power that lives this very day. As we seek the Holy Spirit to be active in our lives, God will lead us and guide us.

During this season of Easter and always, let us remember that Christ is Risen, He is risen indeed! May we pray that the Risen Christ will continue to lead us, and strengthen us to do the work that Jesus himself went about as he walked on this earth. May we love God and serve our neighbor with all of our heart, mind and soul.

Growing with you in faith,  
Pastor Laura

## Stewardship's Null Curriculum

By Rolf Jacobson

*This article was first published on [Luther Seminary's Web site](http://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/) at <http://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/>*

God cares *at least as much* about the money you *don't* give away to charity as God does about the money that you do.

God doesn't just care about the 10% (or 5% or 2%) of the money that you give to God. God does care about the money you share with God, of course. But God also cares at least as much about what you do with the 90% (or 95% or 98%) of the money that you save and spend as God cares about the money you share.

But the church has trained people to think that God only cares about the money that we give away -- especially the money that we've given to the church.

By emphasizing "the tithe" and giving "off the top" -- which are noble ideas -- we've accidentally taught people that God only cares about what we give away. You know, 10% belongs to God; the rest belongs to you. Give that 10% to the church, which will use it for God's purposes. The other 90%? Do whatever you want with it.

And we've done the same thing when it comes to the stewardship of our lives and our time. We've told people: "Your time and talents are valuable when you volunteer at church. See, we call you up front and pray for you when you are installed on the church council, or as a Sunday School teacher, or are sent off on a trip with the youth."

Some congregations still use "Time and Talent" surveys -- which you'll notice are about the options for your time and energy spent involved at church.

We should be telling people something like this: Because we belong to God, everything about us belongs to God: our selves, our bodies, our families, our time, our relationships -- even our possessions. In light of

that, the question we ought to be asking ourselves is: how do people who belong to God regard their belongings?

Or even better, we should be asking people, “What is God up to in your spending and saving? Where is the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the dollars that pass virtually through the chip reader when you buy groceries, clothes, gas, and so on? What’s God up to far across the ocean when you buy a piece of clothing manufactured in China?”

We could be wondering with people, “What is God up to in my investing? Where is God stirring when I put my money in the stock market?”

Or, “What is God up to when I’m tipping my hair stylist, or the single-mother waitress who hustles tables all day, or the Uber driver who isn’t supposed to accept tips?”

It isn’t just the widow’s mite that God cares about. Your entire family budget says something about your faith in Christ. Your entire stock portfolio may be something through which God is up to good work in the world.

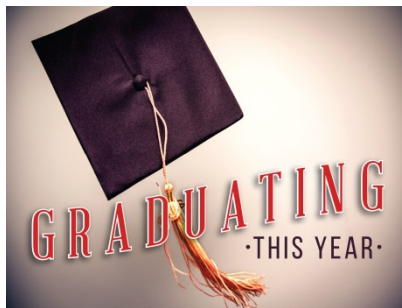
*Dr. Rolf A. Jacobson serves as Professor of Old Testament and The Alvin N. Rogness Chair of Scripture, Theology, and Ministry at Luther Seminary.*

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

As a Lutheran church, we follow an order of worship that is called 'liturgy'. Liturgy means the 'work of the people.' During the last month, all of us participated in some extra liturgy. With the longer gospel lessons, you had to involve your heart and mind as the Word of God was shared. Many of our members participated in reading character parts of these longer texts. Certainly our choir and hand bell choirs were busy planning and practicing and then sharing special music. On April 23, various members of our congregation shared their reasoning behind why they enjoy volunteer work. We know many more of you could have shared as well. The work of the church is not just what happens inside the walls of the church building, but it is how we live our life everyday as God's beloved children. Hopefully our worship life together equips us to live faithful lives each and every day.

During the month of May we will continue our celebration of the resurrection. The season of Easter lasts for seven weeks, leading up to the day of Pentecost, the day we recall the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all people.

Please add your voice and your work to our worship life as we thank, praise and bless God each and every week.



Calling all graduates: If you know a member of the church who is graduating this year, please let us know, and if possible, share with us what the graduate's future plans are. You may send the info via e-mail to: [office@stpaulsbbv.org](mailto:office@stpaulsbbv.org).

## **A NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY IS COMING!**

It's time for a new St. Paul's pictorial directory! Our last one was done in 2011.

We have contracted with Lifetouch to do the new directory. That's the same company we used for the 2011 directory.

You will receive a call from a congregation member to tell you more about the program and to sign you up for a photo session. Four photo sessions are scheduled, each from 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM: Wednesday, May 31; Thursday, June 1; Monday, June 5; and Tuesday, June 6.

Carol Weiser (610-967-5534) and Rosemary Lehman (610-966-2469) are managing the project.

Watch for more information.



# MAY 2017 SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

The month of May signifies the close of our Sunday school program year. As we prepare for our last day on May 21, we are So grateful for our teachers, students and the strengthened connections made with God, Jesus and our church.

Before our year closes out, we are looking forward to the following activities:

## **Noisy Change Offering – May 7**

To help our children learn more about selfless giving and helping our community, each has been collecting loose change at home. They will bring their change to church on Sunday, May 7 for the church's noisy change offering. Change collected will benefit the American Cancer Society (ACS), as voted upon by the students. We encourage you to bring your loose change on May 7 or to talk to any of our Sunday school children to support their effort.



## **End of Year Celebration – May 21**

On Sunday May 21 we will celebrate the close of our Sunday school year with games and other fun activities. We will also perform our annual garden cleanup/flower planting out in front of the church. All are welcome to join us in this effort with hands or donations of flowers/plants for the effort. Please see me for more information.

Our Sunday school students will also celebrate by singing in church on May 21. We look forward to again singing for you!

We send heartfelt thanks to our Sunday school teachers and helpers for their yearlong support and effort. Your dedication and commitment to sharing the love of God with our children is greatly appreciated. Please share your thanks with these wonderful individuals: Tom Kellogg, Amy Brenfleck, Sandi Wagaman, Anita Eisenhard, Sandi Christoffersen and Judy Noll.

(continued on next page)

Special thanks is also extended to all our parents and children for their commitment to our program!

If you are interested in helping with our Sunday school program please contact Taryne Williams. Opportunities in curriculum and special event planning, Christmas pageant, joint music and church/child connections exist, and we are always open to suggestions/help with planning and support.

## BREAKFAST POTLUCK



Join us Sunday, June 4th at 9AM for a pre-church breakfast potluck. Bring your favorite breakfast foods to enjoy with others and then stay for worship after. This will be in the pavilion, weather permitting.

## “JESUS, STAND AMONG US”

Jesus, stand among us, in your risen power;

Let this time of worship be a hallowed hour.

Breathe the Holy Spirit into every heart;  
Bid the fears and sorrows from each soul depart.

Thus with quickened footsteps we pursue our way,  
watching for the dawning of eternal day.

—William Pennfather





# **BIKE-A-THON FOR WORLD HUNGER**

## **MAY 13, 2017**



Please mark your calendars for Saturday, May 13, to participate in the synod's 5<sup>th</sup> annual Bike-A-Thon for World Hunger which will be held from 9am-1pm at the beautifully scenic Bob Rodale Cycling & Fitness Park in Breinigsville (directly across from the velodrome). Letters will be sent out to all I congregations containing all the details, necessary forms, and sponsor sheets. Come and enjoy a nice time of fellowship with your sisters and brothers in Christ while raising funds for a great cause. See you at the park!

### **SAVE THE DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!**

July 24<sup>th</sup> - July 28<sup>th</sup>

6-8:30 PM

Ages 3-12

Calling all kids please save the date for our upcoming VBS this year. Our theme is DEEP SEA DISCOVERY!

We will learn about bible stories that take place near the sea.

We are in the need for VOLUNTEERS! If you are interested in helping in any way please contact Katie Pisauro or Anita Eisenhard in church.

We are excited for another great year of VBS!!!

# WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

The monthly meeting was held on April 11, attended by 8 ladies.

Upcoming Events:

- April 22, Spring Cluster Meeting, Weisenberg Lutheran Church, New Tripoli, PA. Topic: Vaccinations/Immunizations.
- May 20, Northeastern PA Synod, 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, Hope Lutheran Church, Cherryville, PA. Theme: 500 Years and Growing. Registration deadline: April 29, 2017.
- Fall Fun Event, September 23, Hope Tatamy.
- Fall Cluster Meeting, October 14<sup>th</sup>, St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Allentown. Topic: Identity Theft.

Our Bible Study was Galatians Christian Faith and Christian Freedom by Kathryn A. Kleinhans

Heirs of the Promise.....Text 3:24-4:3. Discussed how Paul drew on the firsthand experience of the Galatians themselves as well as the Hebrew scriptures to make the case that the Galatians are part of God's family because of God's gift and promise, not because of whether or not they obey God's law.

Please join us on May 10 at 9:30 a.m. for our next meeting.

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:610-351-6040) or cell # [610-573-7117](tel:610-573-7117). 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.

### “WHY DON’T STREETLAMPS HAVE EARS?”

“Mom!” my 3-year-old self hissed at 6 a.m. “Why don’t streetlamps have ears?” My mom later wrote (in a 1974 article) that she peered at me sleepily, silently asking a question of her own: “Seriously?!”

That year I amused — and exasperated — my parents with countless questions: “Why did sister leave one shoe here and one there?” “If God is up in heaven, how did he make the grass?” “Why are dandelions yellow?” To that query, Mom replied, “I guess that’s how God wanted them” — and wrote, “In our house, we let God answer many of our questions.”

I still have questions: Why is my dynamic young friend dying of cancer? Why are a parent’s own children sometimes hard to love? How can we end war, poverty, sex trafficking? Should we donate money or save for college? How, exactly, does salvation work? Sometimes science or professionals are God’s instruments to answer my questions. Sometimes answers come quietly to my heart — and sometimes they don’t come at all.

Faith doesn’t mean never questioning. It means trusting enough to ask, even when a question seems silly or pointless. Thanks, Mom and Dad, for teaching me by your loving example that God always welcomes my questions.

—Heidi Mann

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 7 Noisy Offering

May 21 Last day for Sunday School – Kids sing in church

June 4 Potluck Breakfast 9:00 a.m.

### PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR!

May 7. May Play Day. Members of Lutheran congregations in the Northeastern PA Synod – of all ages – are welcome to participate in “May Play Day” at Bear Creek Camp. The synod’s Lutheran Youth Fellowship and Bear Creek Camp are co-sponsoring this event. What can you expect? Games! A campfire! Food! Fellowship! Worship around the campfire. Registration information will be available soon. In the meantime, save the date!

### BIBLE QUIZ

Acts 17 describes Paul speaking about God to the people of Athens in front of — incredibly! — a site that still exists. What is that site?

- A. The Panathenaic Stadium
- B. The Areopagus
- C. The Acropolis and the Parthenon
- D. The Temple of Hephaestus



Answer on page 16

### IRON PIGS GAME SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2017



We are trying something new.

St. Paul’s will once again go to the Iron Pigs for a game on Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will be in PenTeleData Porch (not the PPL patio).

Game time is 6:35 p.m. Cost is \$37.00.

There are **only** 30 tickets available. Watch for a sign-up sheet.

## **MAY**

### **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 canned soup or stews for our monthly collection for the food bank.

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

### **WILLING RECIPIENTS**

A young graduate longed for a certain sports car and knew his dad could afford it. So on the big day, he was infuriated to receive instead a leather-bound, embossed Bible. He threw it down and left for good.

Years later, after his father died, the son entered his father’s study with sorrow and regret. Sorting through belongings, he found the gift and this highlighted verse: “If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!” (Matthew 7:11, ESV). Suddenly something dropped from the back of the Bible: a key with a tag from the dealer of the car he’d wanted long ago. On the tag was his graduation date and the words “Paid in Full.”

How often we miss out on God’s generous gifts because they come “packaged” differently than we expect! At graduation — and throughout life — may we be open to every gift God bestows on us with a Father’s deep love.

## **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.

## **BEGINNING ... AND BEGINNING AGAIN**

During the coming weeks, as you or loved ones celebrate graduation, remember it isn't a closed door, an end or a farewell. Instead, it's an entryway threshold, a beginning, a hello — and one of many such opportunities that mark life.

“God wants us to know that life is a series of beginnings, not endings, just as graduations are not terminations but commencements,” writes Bernie Siegel. “Creation is an ongoing process, and when we create a perfect world where love and compassion are shared by all, suffering will cease.”

Of course, we can “create a perfect world” only by letting God guide our actions. So, dear graduates, may you partner with God to meet suffering with love, kindness and compassion through all the new beginnings of your life!

## THANK YOU LETTERS

Dear Ministry Colleagues in the name of Jesus Christ,

Each year I appreciate the opportunity to thank congregation members for offerings provided in support of synod and churchwide ministries. Likewise, I am eager to applaud your leadership as you call attention to the expansive breadth of God's love and the immeasurable scope of God's desire for healing, justice, and peace. Members of your congregation and you help empower this church to bear witness to God's love, healing justice and peace through generous mission support.

This letter of appreciation only begins to express my gratitude, the gratitude of congregations across the ELCA, and the gratitude of those touched by the many ministries generated by mission support. I hope, however, that you will convey my appreciation, as well as the gratitude of others, to the members of your congregation.

When the time arises that a member of the synod staff or I might assist you or members of your congregation in better understanding the ministries of the whole church, please be in touch. There are many good stories, and we love to tell them.

The Gospel reading for Epiphany 5 contains these words of Jesus: "You are the light of the world." I want every "you" on this synod's territory to feel the exhilaration of the call to faithful discipleship that Jesus expresses in this address. And I want all of those "yous" to be swept up in our Lord's vision of how far God's creative power is prepared go.

With exhilaration and gratitude that I have the opportunity to be in ministry with you,

The Rev. Samuel R. Zeiser  
Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod

To the members of St. Paul's,

Thank you for your donation of \$100.00 to Bear Creek Camp. Your contribution will be used for our summer programs.

# THANK YOU LETTER

Dear Rev. Stoneback:

Thank you! Your generous donation of \$100 is helping to provide nutritious meals to over 450 homebound seniors and adults with disabilities each day---170, 000 meals each year.

It is your belief in our work that allows us to subsidize meals costs for 95% of the people we serve, who would not be able to afford their meals without your help.

If you're wondering how your donation is having an impact on the lives of the people we serve, just read the results of our recent client survey:

- 98% say that Meals on Wheels is helping them live independently in their own home.
- 95% say that on a typical day Meals on Wheels provides them with their main source of food.
- 91% report their nutrition has improved.
- 51% would have to skip meals if they did not have Meals on Wheels.
- For 48%, the volunteer is the only visitor they have on typical delivery day.
- For 29%, the volunteer is the only person they see in a typical week.

As you can see, your donation is making a difference. Thank you for playing such an important role in our ability to carry out our mission and improve the lives of our homebound neighbors.

Sincerely

Michele Grasso

Director of Development and Communications

## BIBLE QUIZ ANSWER

Answer: B (See Acts 17:22.)



# **ABOUT THE LUTHERANS**

## **Lutherans Come to North America**

Most of us know that Lutheranism had its start in Germany with Martin Luther. But when and how did it come over to North America? The story begins with the arrival of a pastor with a distinctive name, at least to our ears. On April 17, 1640, Swedish pastor Reorus Torkillus arrived in Fort Christina, near present-day Wilmington, Delaware. The Swedish government was developing a small settlement there and needed someone to attend to the spiritual needs of the Swedish immigrants.

If we wish to see a sustained presence of Lutherans, though, we must wait about a hundred years. Germans had begun arriving in America in the 1680s, with most settling in Pennsylvania and upstate New York but others heading for Louisiana and the southeastern colonies. Many were fleeing poor conditions in Germany, and though they brought their beliefs from home, there was, at first, no provision for Lutheran pastors. But in 1741 Lutherans in Pennsylvania issued a call to a thirty-year-old pastor in Saxony, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg. He arrived in Philadelphia in 1742. Muhlenberg turned out to be an excellent choice. Not only was he untiring in his pastoral work, but he laid the foundations for what would become the Lutheran church in America. He helped more congregations to organize and call pastors. He called into existence the first North American organization of Lutherans, the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. He helped prepare a standard Lutheran liturgy and create a constitution. He even contributed deeply to a hymnal published in 1786.

Lutherans kept coming from different European lands. Swedes and Norwegians settled largely in the upper Midwest; Danes were more widespread. German immigrants were concentrated in a band across the northern part of the country, but they also established concentrations in places like Missouri and Texas. Slovaks, heirs to Luther's predecessor Jan Hus, also arrived. Often these groups set up their own separate church systems, such as the Augustana Synod, the Norwegian Synod, and the German-based General Synod. Then there were groups that formed in opposition to teachings of the earlier groups, like the Hauge Synod and the Missouri Synod. Mergers have occurred, but so have divisions. Currently the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is by far the largest Lutheran body in the United States, followed by the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod and many smaller bodies.

But the story doesn't end with the first immigrations from northern Europe. The nineteenth century brought increased missionary activity to the scene, and in time some of those who had been taught by these missionaries also came to North America, bringing their own Lutheran customs. So now our mix includes heritages such as Ethiopian, Nigerian, Liberian, Korean, Chinese, Indian, Palestinian, Brazilian, and many more. Where can your congregation trace its roots?



Henry Melchior  
Muhlenberg



### **MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

The following memorial contribution has been received in memory of Walter Spall:

Co-workers of Kenneth Arndt  
Deli C. Grim  
Betty Hildenbrand  
Reginald & Karen Hollar  
Lower Macungie Township  
Bruce & Sandi Wagaman

“Do not be afraid of tomorrow, for God is already there.”

—Unknown

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“Faith is like wi-fi: It’s invisible, but it has the power to connect you to what you need.”

—Unknown

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

Karen Feimster  
Betty Marchetti  
Kathy Shryock

Judy Miller  
Robert Miller  
Ginny Wingard

Helen Kessler  
Gloria Selig  
Larry Wingard



1 Mason Sallit  
2 Gretchen Gotthard  
4 Esther Nolf  
5 Jesse Eisenhard  
7 Landon Wagner  
7 Carol Weiser  
8 Robert Bruchak  
9 Richard Spengler  
11 Aubrie Pavlacka  
11 Peggy Saylor  
11 Jeff Waltemyer  
12 Brynn Reeger  
12 David Reinhard

15 Neali Feimster  
16 Paul Xander  
17 Peggy Apgar  
17 Carole Beck  
18 Kyana Maslany  
18 Kelly Morgenstern  
18 Adrianna Wiswesser  
18 Robert Yeager  
22 Sophia Mesko  
22 Warren Schlenker  
25 Michael Morgenstern  
25 Joe Thompson  
26 Reno Thomas



1 Susan & Al Ferguson  
8 Ken & Janine Ritter  
19 James & 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

## PASTORIAL ACTS FUNERAL

Pastor Laura officiated at the funeral of Dottie Moll on April 21, 2017.

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER IS**

**MAY 14, 2017**

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



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

**HOSPITAL CODE: #321**

**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

**EMAIL: [office@stpaulsville.org](mailto:office@stpaulsville.org)**

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