

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Chimes

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October 2019



From The Pastor....

Dear Friends in Christ,

At the special congregational meeting held last month, the people of St. Paul made two important decisions. First, by vote of 31 in favor, one opposed and two abstentions, you affirmed Christ's mandate to inclusivity by inviting a family to return to fellowship with us. Jesus' goal in coming into the world is laid out in Jn. 17:21, "...that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you sent me." Your actions in restoring this family to membership are a clear witness to the community that we are serious about following Christ's example of love and forgiveness.

The second decision made with 29 yes votes and four abstentions was equally significant. It sets the completion of the formal redevelopment covenant with our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) at June 30, 2020 instead of December 31. Completing the formal redevelopment covenant with our synod and the ELCA on June 30 allows us to reap the benefits of having the mission redeveloper onboard to provide continuity during the key events of this transitional period (Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter, Confirmation) while providing opportunity to call a spring seminary graduate or pastor looking to move over the summer months for family reasons.

Needless to say, pastors willing to change calls at this time are in very short supply. St Paul must be patient-- and prayerfully so. Strengthened by God's Word and the promise of His comfort and care, let us determine to go forward together in confidence and joy.

Yours faithfully,
Pastor Filer

Church Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 9:00am to 3:00pm

Food Pantry Hours

Every Tuesday 11:00am – 1:00pm

Council Corner

As we approach the arrival of October, our thoughts turn toward a host of fall activities celebrating the return to school, a bountiful harvest, a Happy Halloween, and the coming of fall and winter. For members of your Church Council, it is also a time of preparation for our congregational meeting on November 10 and fiscal year 2020. Although our worship focuses on several special events that provide us with opportunities to thank God for His goodness and generosity, the Council must also focus on the daily business of providing a clean, comfortable, and well-maintained sanctuary and building facility for worship and the many programs that depend upon St. Paul as a meeting place. You, of course, are an important part of that process.

At our special congregational meeting on Sunday, September 15, the congregation voted to accept Council's recommendation to conclude St. Paul's three-year revitalization program six months early. Although we have benefitted from the program in many ways under the leadership of Pastor Carl Filer, it is now time to look to the future of St. Paul with a new permanent pastor—a full-time or part-time minister who will continue the important work of growing St. Paul.

Just four days after the special congregational meeting, on September 19, Council met for its regular monthly session. Although the September meeting often involves closing out summer activities and focusing on the return to Sunday School, it also begins the budget review necessary to provide the congregation with an accurate picture of the financial plan that will carry us through 2020. As I write this month's column, we find ourselves in the midst of a pleasant stretch of warm, dry weather. Outdoor activities abound, and few events have had to be cancelled because of severe weather (at least, not here in northeastern Pennsylvania). At the Council work session, however, we found ourselves "guess-timating" the severity of the winter and how much funding we should budget for ice and snow removal. Council works from a budget template developed by the Finance Committee several years ago, and each line item is reviewed and discussed in appropriate detail. Sometimes the budget session lasts for 90 minutes or more; this year we finished our work in about an hour. The budget review session is one of the many times during the year when we scrutinize the budget numbers in comparison to the actual expenditures for the current financial year. In short, your elected Council members (especially our dedicated treasurer, Ingrid Unternahrer) take the financial responsibility of providing for St. Paul's needs seriously.

Looking toward June 30, 2020, and the end of our revitalization program, Council has planned to adjust the *Pastoral Leadership* category of the budget proposal for what we hope (and pray) will be a relatively short period. For the first six months of 2020 we will continue to support Pastor Filer's salary and benefits package at its 2019 rate; once we move into July we will return to a supply pastor agreement for an undetermined time period. Council has begun to explore some of the options available to us for supply pastors (including some within Monroe County); in addition, Pastor Filer will be guiding us through the Call Process early next year in an effort to minimize the vacancy at St. Paul. Only God knows the duration of this interim period, but as we have seen before, there is much to be gained from the variety of perspectives presented by visiting worship leaders.

As we enter the month of October, typically the month of greatest stewardship emphasis at St. Paul, let's continue to reflect on our offerings of time, talent, and treasure. This October, specifically, let's pay particular attention to the *Giving* section of Pastor Zach Zehnder's **Red Letter Challenge**.

Bill Below

Council President

CHANCEL



CHOIR

Join us... PLEASE!!

St. Paul's Chancel Choir will be reconvening for another year of beautiful music and comedy. If you've ever thought "Hey. Maybe I could sing with them?" Trust me. You can.

Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bob Jones and he will be happy to either provide you with an answer or, at a minimum, make one up.

Handbells

Join us... PLEASE!!

St. Paul's Handbells will be reconvening for another year of beautiful music. If you are interested in joining the handbells please see Bob Jones. He will gladly answer any questions you have and add you to the handbell choir.

Schedules for Sundays in October

October 6th – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

*Greeter- Ed & Mary Ann Kenderdine Lector- Linda Below Communion Assistant- Donny Sparacino
Ushers- Charles Hempel, Bruce Orlowski*

October 13th – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter- Beth Werkheiser Lector- Dawn Ladeas Ushers- Beth & Carl Reindl

October 20th – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

*Greeter- Joy Post Lector- Jim Werkheiser Communion Assistant- Mattie Morales, Margaret Wyckoff
Ushers- Linda Below, Deb Storman*

October 27th – 15th Reformation Sunday

Greeter- Barbara & Grant Allen Lector- Donny Sparacino Ushers- Jill & Brad Pensyl

ALL LECTORS: WE ARE GOING BACK TO WEARING ROBES FOR THE READING!!!!

St Paul's Committees

Below is the list of our committees at St. Paul. Each committee's chair person and their contact information is included. Our committees work hard all year to keep our church running smoothly, to provide services to our community, and to hold events that are fun! Thank you to all who are serving on our committees and to those additional volunteers who step in to lend a hand!!!

Christian Ed: Dawn Weiss
dweiss@pmsd.org

Property/Safety: Ron Unternahrer
iinternahrer@yahoo.com

Personnel: Bill Below
anbill@ptd.net

United Ministries: Mattie Morales
Tata01222@aol.com

Altar Guild: Judy Michael
Jdmichael72@gmail.com

Christ's Cafe of St. Paul: Dawne Ladeas
Dawnel@ptd.net

Worship and Music: Terry Fouts
parishcoordinator@stpaultannersvillepa.org

Don't Forget



You shop. Amazon gives.

Don't forget to put St. Paul Lutheran Church Tannersville as your charity before checking out on Amazon. They will send us 1% of your purchase.

Grocery Register Tapes

Please bring Weis and Shoprite register tapes to church each week. They can be placed in the box on the table in the Narthex. However, we can only use Kinsley's Shoprite of Brodheadsville and they cannot be used after one year old. Weis tapes can be used after one year.

Christian Education



it's for life!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER—MAY**

Children Pre-K through 6th grade begin Sunday School in music and prayer. Parents are encouraged to join in the opening. Then each age group is greeted by their Sunday School teacher and lead to class.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Red Letter Challenge – Comments by Bev Otten

As I write this, we are on Day 10 and moving toward the end of the **Being** week. During this week, Zach Zehnder highlighted a very important point, “almost 60% of Christians around the world say their hectic lives prevent them from spending time with God...But when we fill our schedules every minute of the day, we lose focus. We get wrapped up in things that aren’t important and just don’t matter...Family, friends, job, house and money are all important, but all of them will let you down at some point...Jesus wants to be our top priority...**We need to say ‘No’ to many good things, so we can say ‘Yes’ to the best thing.**”

This opportunity to spend time with the words of Christ on a daily basis for 40 days is one way of putting our priorities in order. I, personally, found this book to be helpful to me in strengthening my relationship with Christ and was the reason I suggested we offer members of this congregation the opportunity to participate in this “challenge”. When this newsletter is printed we will be engaged in the **Serving** week and will have completed the **Forgiving** week. By taking the words of Jesus and putting them together by principle, Pastor Zehnder provided a concise way to understand Christ’s desire for the lives of His followers. The last two weeks of the **Red Letter Challenge** encourage us to evaluate our attitude toward **Giving** and our participation in **Going**.

A car which is parked in the church’s parking lot several days a week has a sticker which asks the question, “Do you follow Christ this closely?” After having completed this “challenge,” I believe many of us are better able to answer that question, but only God and we know that answer in regard to our relationship with Christ. I hope by spending time in the Word during these 40 days, the Holy Spirit has reinforced each person’s desire to continue to follow Christ closely. And, as Pastor Zehnder reminded us, there are times when we all fail. Thank God for His forgiveness. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit guide us to be appropriate representatives for Christ wherever we walk.

If interested in obtaining a book, please contact Pastor. Also, it is not too late to still join a group and share this journey with fellow believers. “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” Matt. 18:20

Thank you,
Bev



Don't forget our Strunk Food Pantry. There is a demand for food all year round, not just during the holidays. Right now our pantry could use: **canned or boxed potatoes, dry cereal, canned veggies (no green beans please), peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce, pasta (dry boxed or canned), soups, canned and/or powdered milk, canned fruit, sugar, canned meats (tuna, chicken, spam etc.), crackers, mayonnaise, juice, jelly, kids snacks, baby food, diapers, formula, toilet tissue, toiletries, shampoo and soap.**

Wants, needs, and the path to contentment

There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.-1

Timothy 6:6-9

When Apple released a new iphone some years ago, our teenager grew unhappy with the one that had been a treasured birthday present only a few months earlier.

“I really need a new iphone,” we were told with urgency and expectations. Sensible parents, we said no, pointing out that a new iphone was definitely a want, not a need. Our teen stormed off, outraged by the injustice and deprivation.

Children and youth are forgiven for confusing wants and needs, but many of us reach adulthood without the knowledge. The distinction is especially hard to learn in our consumer culture, where every advertisement tells us that true happiness is forever just one more purchase away. When we believe this lie, we suffer lives of insatiable desire, ever grasping for the newer, the better, the larger, the more.

Mature faith and biblical stewardship challenge us to distinguish our wants from our needs, so that we may find contentment with “enough”- decent housing, healthy food, clean clothing and reliable transportation. No longer slaves to a desire for more, we are free to enjoy the abundant life that comes from loving relationships with God and family and neighbor.

Getting free may take discipline, but with God's help we can grow. Faced with desire, we pray: "Is this a need or a want? If it's a want, why do I sense it's a need? Can I be content without it?"

Finding contentment, we open ourselves to the life God intends for us, rich and abundant in love, joy and grace.

--Rob Blezard

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Pastor Blezard serves as an assistant to the bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod and works as content editor for www.stewardshippolife.org. he blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com.

Links to resources

The “think it” resource

Want, Don't Need- What's wrong with wanting? Not a darn thing, author Russell Grieger writes in Psychology Today. The trick is never to confuse wanting with needing, so that you are clear on your true motivations. If you want something, go for it without desperation. Thought- provoking article.

(<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/happiness-purpose/201305/want-don't-need>)

The “teach it” resource

Wants vs. Needs Celebrating God's Provision- This Bible study looks at how God provided for the Israelites in the wilderness as a way to distinguish between wants and needs. It's geared for schoolchildren, but with imagination could be adapted for use with youth and adults.

(<https://ministry-to-children.com/wants-or-needs-lesson/>)

The “do it” resource

Need vs. Want- How can we know in our daily life what's a want versus a need? And what do we do with that information? This handy chart from Simple Living Daily can help us sort things out, so that we can live better.

(<https://simplelivingdaily.com/needs-vs-want/>)

The “preach it” resource

Weekly Lectionary Stewardship Reflection. Sharon Blezard, Lower Susquehanna Synod assistant to the bishop and pastor, looks at stewardship implications in the week’s Revised Common Lectionary lesson.

(www.stewardshipoflife.org)

General Stewardship Resource Websites

Stewardship of Life Institute- Headquartered at United Lutheran Seminary, this site has a trove of resources in areas of congregational and personal stewardship. (www.Stewardshipoflife.org)

ELCA Stewardship Resources- Our denomination’s deep well of materials. (elca.org/stewardship)

Center for Steward Leadership- Luther Seminary’s excellent website.

(www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/)

The ELCA Foundation- a ministry of our denomination. (www.elca.org/give/elca-foundation)

Lower Susquehanna Synod Stewardship- Select free or low-cost resources.

Stewardship Snippets

October 6, 2019 (Time after Pentecost- Lectionary 27, Proper 22, Year C)

Luke 17:5-6- The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our Faith!” The Lord replied, “If you had the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, “Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you”

The apostles want more faith, but Jesus says they need only have faith the size of a mustard seed. In both our congregational and personal lives, more is not always needed—whether it’s more faith, more behinds in the pews, more money, or more stuff. What would Jesus say to us today?

October 13, 2019 (Time after Pentecost- Lectionary 28, Proper 23, Year C)

2 Kings 5:10-11- “Elisha sent a message to him, saying, “Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean. But Naaman became angry and went away, saying “I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure leprosy!”

What we want and what we need are often quite different. Because of his status Naaman wanted and expected the “royal” treatment in his healing. Sometimes the simpler blessings are exactly what we need. Be grateful for all of God’s amazing gifts- no matter the packaging, timing, or messenger.

October 20, 2019 (Time after Pentecost- Lectionary 29, Proper 24, Year C)

Luke 18:7- And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them?

We want what we want in this life, but God knows exactly what we need and won’t forsake us. Listen carefully for God’s guidance and then be fearless and persistent in seeking what God desires for you. Listening to and for God is good Stewardship!

October 27, 2019 (Time after Pentecost- Lectionary 30, Year C)

Psalm 84:5- Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. Sometimes our wants are not in line with the values of a follower of Jesus. Humans are great at rationalizing and justifying wants. What we NEED is to turn to God with all our heart, mind, and strength. In doing so, God will align our wants to the divine will so that we may have life abundant. Are you finding your strength in God, or are you relying on your own bootstraps and will?

Just Because

The **Just Because** collection item for October is hand sanitizers. Please deposit your contributions in the **Just Because** box located in the narthex area. *Thank you for your continuing support!*



Things to look forward to in October

October 1st Just because will be collecting Hand Sanitizer for the month

October 14th Columbus Day

October 16th Community Dinner- Sloppy Joes

October 31st Halloween

Things to look forward to in November

November 1st Just because will be collecting Gold Fish for the month

November 1st & 2nd Rummage Sale

November 3rd All Saints Sunday

November 3rd Day Light Saving Ends

November 5th Elections

November 10th Congregational Meeting

November 11th Veterans Day

November 20th Community Dinner

November 28th Thanksgiving

Things to look forward to in December

December 1st Advent Starts

December 18th Community Dinner (Baked Ham- Traditional Christmas Meal)

December 22nd First Day of Winter

December 24th Christmas Eve Services 4pm & 8pm

December 25th Christmas Day !!!!

Office will be closed 25, 26, 27, 28

December 31st New Years Eve

October is the Month of....



Breast Cancer Awareness Month

There are lots of programs that you can get involved in for this cause.
Find one and support those in need.



Happy Halloween!!!!

Scary, silly, funny or spooky.

However you like to celebrate the season, ENJOY!



Fall Rummage Sale

Friday, November 1st from 9:00am to 4:00pm and Saturday November 2nd 9:00am to Noon.

It's that time again!! Save your stuff as donations will be accepted from Monday, Oct 28th through Thursday the 31st between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm at Spies Hall. PLEASE make sure to place your donations on the stage only. Clothing, books, music, toys, bedding, kitchen items and holiday decor are some suggestions. As a reminder, we can't accept electronics or appliances. Volunteers are needed for set-up on Thurs and the sale days too! Please contact the office.



You hear it all the time, “Our church is like our family”. It is a sentiment shared by many here at St. Paul, and throughout most churches. On its surface, this saying is sweet and gives people that “warm fuzzy feeling”. But, if you sit and think about it for a bit, you realize just how much our church is so very much like a real family.

You can choose your friends, but not your family.

This old adage is true for all families, including our church family. We don't get to choose our members, **THEY CHOOSE US!** This is really amazing. Just as we choose our spouse, people choose a church. Their decision is based on lots of things, but some of the biggest factors in choosing a church are shared goals, a common background, comfortableness in the church, similar hobbies or activities, and an overall good feeling. Although people choose their church, they can't choose everyone who belongs to that church. When they join the church they become a member (similar to a marriage). They may not get along with and love every person in the congregation. This is kind of like in-laws. We all have them, and we don't always love all of them. But we treat them with kindness and patience because doing so is in the best interest of our whole family.

Now, there is the sibling factor, also. Growing up in a church family is like having extra siblings (or cousins depending how often people attend the church). How many times have we fought with our siblings? And our parents always told us to "work it out", "get along" or "stop being mean to each other". We are a family, and a family works things out, loves each other and does all they can to get along. This can be applied to our church family. We may not always understand the members of our church family, but we should do everything we can to get along and help each other.

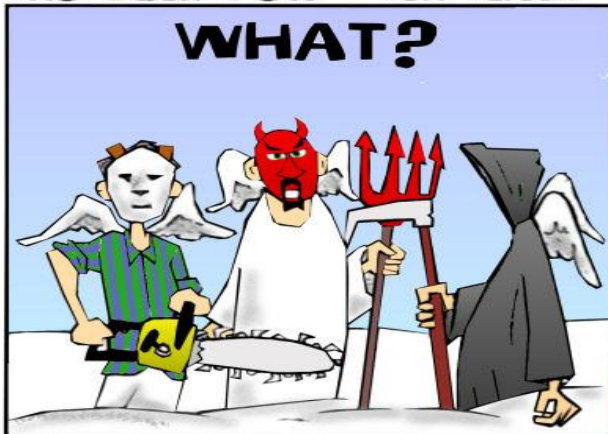
As with any family, our church family depends on each other for survival. Individuals cannot make up a church on their own. As a group, a church can thrive, as long as everyone is sharing in the work and duties. Not all members of a church family share the same talents and strengths. This is a **GOOD** thing. All those different abilities allow us to utilize everyone's talents to grow the church and its ministry. Even those members who have limitations can contribute. Everyone can do something and as a family we can help place each member in a position that compliments their talents and limitations.

Jesus' teachings tell us to go out and bring the word of God to everyone. He never told us that there was a head count limit. You cannot choose the size of your family. Families grow and change. What we can do is help our family along and do what Jesus asks of us. Jesus tells us, very explicitly, how we are to treat one another. He wants us to accept each other, be kind, understanding and loving. A church family is called on to be a family complete with spouses, children, siblings, in-laws, aunts, uncles, cousins and step-family. And we all know that love, patience, kindness, caring and understanding go a long way in creating a happy family.

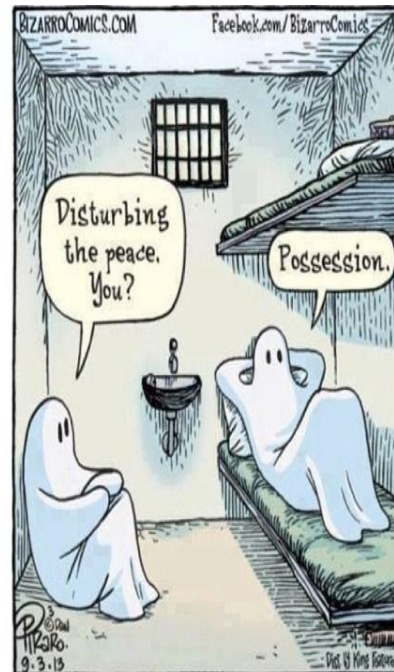
LIGHTEN UP...

FOR FUN AND THOUGHT

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Inappropriate Halloween Costumes in
HEAVEN





Boy Scouts God & Family Award Ceremony!!!

October 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<p>1</p> <p>10am Sewing 7pm Christian Ed 7pm AA 7pm 12 Step Program 7:45pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9am Watercolor 6pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30am Home School</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7pm AA</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p> <p>9am Worship Contemporary</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7pm Worship & Music</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7pm Property 7pm AA 7pm 12 Step Program 7:45 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9am Watercolor 6pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:30 Home School 7pm Finance</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7pm AA</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>9am Worship Traditional</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10am Sewing 7pm AA 7pm 12 Step Program 7:45 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9am Watercolor 4:30pm Community Dinner 6pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:30am Home School 12pm Seniors 7pm Council</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7pm AA</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p>9am Worship Traditional</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7pm AA 7pm 12 Step Program 7:45pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9am Watercolor 6pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:30am Home School</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7pm AA</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>9am Worship Traditional</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Halloween</p> 		

