

THE EPISTLE

July/
August
2009

The Newsletter of the People of St. Paul

St. Paul Mission Statement

“As disciples in Christ’s church, we gather to worship, to grow in faith, and to serve our community and our world.”

It is great to be back from a very restful and thought provoking sabbatical. Yes, I did get a “little” sun and a “little” tan, but I’m sure it was because I did most of my reading by the pool. (Ha Ha)

Most of my reading dealt with transforming and renewing congregations. I read several books by Diana Butler Bass in which she addresses main-line Protestant churches of various brands.

Congregational renewal and transformational faith is the right move for our congregation. The aim of renewal is not a bigger building or fancier worship or a bunch of professional programs, but a new way of looking at church, the work of our congregation, and what we have to offer the world.

A congregation that is truly being a church brings people into a loving, life-giving relationship with God and others that is transformational. People find hope. They experience belonging; they extend and receive forgiveness. They

discover a sense of purpose and direction. Although Pastor Linda and I can preach and teach this message, the message has power only to the extent that the people in St. Paul live it and practice it with one another.

In the coming months, I want each of us to take a deeper look at our congregation and assess our vitality. There are important indicators that we must explore and ask if St. Paul church embodies the biblical concept of church as modeled by the early church in the New Testament writings.

It will take some time to change the culture of our congregation, but it can be done if we trust that God is leading us and his spirit is guiding us as His church. Thank you for your prayers and support during my absence. Also, thank you for your support of Pastor Linda and the entire staff. May God bless you all.

Refreshed and ready,
Pastor Jim Gable

“(God) has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?”
{Micah 6:8 NRSV}

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It was a year ago when I shared this passage from the prophet Micah with you. At that time, I was inviting the disciples at St. Paul to participate in the Burmese refugee sponsorship program being offered to the LCO [Lutheran Community Outreach] congregations by Lutheran Refugee Services. We were still in the first stages of the process and had no idea how long it would be before we would be welcoming our family to Lititz. It is now one year later, and we have been blessed to welcome and share the love of God with the Lian family: John, Mang, Samuel, Gracie, and Jessica. From greeting them at the airport to housing them, getting them to doctors' appointments, enrolling the older children in school, teaching them English and guiding them in how to handle finances and gardening, there has been constant activity and ministry taking place in the lives of many of our LCO congregation disciples. Many of these folks are from St. Paul. I cannot begin to tell you how heartwarming it continues to be to see needs being met, sometimes at a moment's notice. Truly, this is a mission of love, kindness, and justice, as we strive to obey God's call given to us through the prophet Micah and our Lord Jesus Christ to love and serve our neighbor. It has not always been easy. There have been detours and challenges along the way.

There will be more. Life is like that, but God is faithful and provides what is needed. And what a wonderful journey in faith we are on with this family of five, soon to be six. Yes, Mang is pregnant. I cannot adequately thank all those who have become “family” to the Lians in these past months by sharing so much of their time and themselves with them. What a blessing you are to them!

I also want to take this opportunity to invite others to join us on this wonderful ministry adventure. Your gifts of time and expertise are needed and welcomed. I expect that we will be involved in their lives for some time to come. They are our friends, actually, more like our family. They are also our brothers and sisters in Christ, who have touched our hearts even as we have touched theirs. The “grow your talents/dollar” money that we raised in February continues to be used to assist the Lians in many ways. What a blessing! Please continue to pray for the Lian family and for the ministry that we share in helping them to make Lititz their home.

I also want to say, “Welcome back, Pastor Jim and Jayne!” We missed you and pray that your sabbatical was all that you hoped it would be.

Still listening to Micah,
Pastor Linda Hanus





Youth Assistant Position
Part-time Paid Position

We are looking for a person with a passion for youth to work part-time with the Christian Education/Youth Director to extend programming options for our youth. We will begin by concentrating on creating new programming, outside of the Sunday School hour, for our senior high youth while incorporating some junior/senior high programs.

The types of programming will be determined jointly by the Christian Education Director and the Youth Assistant. The time commitment is undefined at the moment but is expected to average 12-15 hours per month.

If you have any questions about this position, please see Lori Nikoloff or Barb Schaffer.

If you are interested, please submit your resume to the church in care of Lori Nikoloff, or email it to lnikoloff@stpaulsititz.org by July 30, 2009.



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Discovery Canyon is Coming!

Place: St. Paul

Date: Sunday, July 26 – Thursday, July 30

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Ages: 3 years – 6th grade

The canyon walls are echoing with the sounds of faith-filled activities! Discovery Canyon: Explore the Wonders of the Word is a majestic and awe-inspiring program.

Come and Discover!

You will get to:

- meet some new friends
- sing rockin' songs
- create awesome crafts in the Cavern
- play games in the Gully
- munch on Canyon Cuisine snacks
- hear stories about Jesus

VBS...WONDER-FILLED!

For more information or to register, sign-up in the narthex.

See you soon!



Get Involved...



Sunday School Teachers Needed

We are looking for people who are interested in joining us in the fall to teach Sunday School. There is an opening available this year for a:

3rd & 4th grade teacher

This position can be one person or several people to team teach. Please let us know if you are interested in helping. Contact Lori or the church office at 626-4709 or email lnikoloff@stpaulsititz.org.

Breakfast Club

To everyone entering 9th grade in the fall and the good old regulars, we have decided to hold several events this summer to keep in touch with everyone. We will meet on several Wednesday nights for a pool party, food, games, fun, and to just relax with a little bit of devotions mixed in. (In case of rain, we will meet inside.) We will be meeting on Wednesday, July 15 and Wednesday, August 12 from 6:30 - 9:30 PM at:

The Nikoloffs
3 Crest Dr.
Lititz 626-1767
chrisn@dejazzd.com

We plan to just relax, meet some of our new 9th graders, catch up with everyone, and spend some time with those leaving us after graduation. We are hoping to work with Habitat this summer and may be able to have an orienteering outing. The details will follow. Email us if you are interested and can attend any or all of the outings.

Epistle Reminder:

All articles/information for the September Epistle should be submitted no later than the **August 15th** deadline. E-mail submissions are *preferred* and should be sent to baepaynter@gmail.com OR articles can be placed in the folder marked "Epistle" outside the church office. **NOTE:** Please include a contact name and phone number with articles placed in the folder. Thank you!

Music News...

The Contemporary Corner... Are You Covered?

Last week I was having one of those days. Although there wasn't much on the calendar, the day began to crunch together rapidly. It was almost time to pick up my daughter from school, and I realized that I had skipped lunch. With 10 minutes to spare, I was heading to Sheetz for a quick bite when I came to a busy intersection. As I approached, I saw an Amish woman and her 10 year-old daughter desperately trying to control her horse on foot while her buggy laid in the gutter at the corner of the intersection after losing a wheel in a pothole.

Most drivers were growing impatient and zipping around the frantic animal, but a few of us found ourselves "placed there for a reason." We pulled our vehicles off to the side of the road and while a local farmer helped the woman take the horse to a nearby barn, the rest of us pushed the "lame" buggy to a safe place. (Note: buggies are a lot heavier than they look!) No one was hurt, but when we asked her who we should contact to help her, she was at a loss.

Now many people who share the road would have just called AAA for assistance. But there is no AAA for the

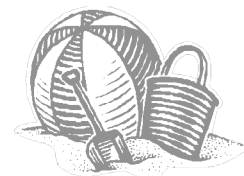
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Amish! As the woman said, "I don't know who can help me, I never thought I would need any help."

So summer's here and we're all off doing our thing at the pool, camping, the beach, or simply a "staycation." How insured are you? Are you covered? Are you SPIRITUALLY covered for the summer? Do you think of worship as a "school year thing" or is it part of your insurance policy all year long? If you need help, do you know who you can turn to? Maybe coming to church on a relaxing Sunday morning in the summer and catching up with your brothers and sisters from both early and late services is all the deductible you need.

Come visit God - who doesn't take a vacation from you - and increase that insurance policy!

Happy Summer!
Melodie Fair



***Contemporary Worship
for July and August...
July 12
August 9
... starting at 9:30AM***

As St. Paul prepares for summer worship, please avail yourself the opportunity to sing or offer special music for our worship service. A poster with the sign up sheet is in the narthex. Please take a moment to select a date and fill in the requested information. Individuals, duets, trios, or small groups are all welcomed. If you need accompaniment, please make a note to the effect. Thank you.



Underwear Update

Our undies are on the move! On Monday, June 1, Project: Underwear and Project: Hairstyle began phase 2. Deborah Graf, a Lutheran deaconess from Reading, came to pick up St Paul's contributions of underwear and hair goodies for the children in Guatemala. Deborah and 17 other folks from her congregation will be heading on a mission trip with Shawn Smith from June 12-17. They will be distributing the underwear and hair goodies to the children they will be working with in the orphanages and churches. Deborah has promised updates and pictures...and I promise to share them with the congregation upon their return. Please keep these fellow brothers and sisters in Christ in your prayers as they share undies and the Good News abroad.

Total pieces collected:
boys - 339
girls - 513
hair goodies – 1869



Congregational Council...

June Meeting Minutes

Pastor Hanus led opening devotions using the Athanasian Creed.

A reception to welcome back Pastor Gable will be after the service on July 5. Installation of council members will also be held on July 5.

Financial Report: Highlights included:

* Increased giving was noted in the past month.

* Utilities have been almost \$21,000 higher to date in 2009 than in 2008

* Almost 40% of the amount borrowed from the line of credit for the roof fund has been received

Discussion took place concerning the energy use report showing the demand meter readings. Light bulbs are being replaced in the social hall with energy efficient bulbs.

Administrative Teams:

Finance: There has been a change in the synod-wide insurance policy from Brotherhood Mutual Insurance. We are looking into securing an additional insurance policy to cover our needs, but we must have a financial audit done to finalize the policy application. We will contact Leid, Lorah, and Associates, to get an estimate for the financial audit.

Jeff High tendered his resignation as head of the Finance Committee. Council thanks Jeff for his many years of service to the church and his work on that committee.

Personnel: Tom Reinfried tendered his resignation as chair of the Personnel Committee. Also ending their terms of service on the committee are: Nancy Boyer, Don Martin, Dick Mearig, Doug Minnich, and Russ Schreiber. Council sincerely thanks these volunteers for their many years of service to the church and their work on the committee. The nominating committee will be looking for 4 members and 1 chair to serve on this committee.

Council: Evaluated the four goals we established in September:

1. Ministry teams fully functioning – continue to need additional people
2. Improve church communications – still need to focus on this goal – 3 month calendar is not posted, website continues to need updating, communication with outreach groups has improved, publicity form developed, visitor bags available, and increase in articles in the local paper.
3. Youth/Young adult/ Family ministries strengthened – created (but not yet filled) a youth position
4. Biblical stewardship - working on being more “green” and many
(continued on next page)

Stephen Ministries...

give of their time to a variety of groups within the church and outside the congregation

Worship Life Team: Working on written documentation of responsibilities for clean up after worship. Someone has volunteered to be the banner steward.

Mission Life Team: Updates were shared about refugee family and Bridge of Hope. WELCA will be collecting canned goods and grocery gift cards for the seminary food bank. Men in Mission will suspend meetings until Sept. The LCO Saturday Men's bible study group continues to meet.

Family Life Team: The new youth position was advertised in various places. Vacation Bible School plans underway. Sunday School still has a teacher opening.

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:

- * Reminder shared that reports need to be filed by both the Cemetery and Property committees on a monthly basis.
- * Lutheran Camping Corporation golf outing information will be placed in the narthex.



Love One Another As I Have Loved You...

In John 15:12 (NRSV), Jesus says, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." Loving and caring for one another is not just the pastor's job – it's something Jesus calls us all to do! Stephen Ministry is a ministry in which people with special gifts for caring ministry can put those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love and care to those who most need it.



Care Receiver Testimonials

Before I had a Stephen Minister, I struggled with whether I even believed in God. Now I have seen God's love face-to-face through my Stephen Minister. It is life-changing!

As a man, it was difficult and awkward reaching out for help. But I'm glad I did. I probably could have made it alone, but it sure was a lot easier having a Stephen Minister to talk to.

Publicity Committee...

Committee Members Needed for the Newly Created Publicity Committee

We have been working on organizing a Publicity Committee. This committee will be responsible for news articles, press releases, and announcements designed for publication.

Joyce Groff, Publicity Chair, has created a form for church members to complete to get information about our events and projects out to the community. There is a form included in this month's Epistle on page 11-14, and forms are also available in a folder outside the church office. Please make yourself familiar with this form and how to use it to educate and inform our community about the many wonderful things our church is doing.

We are looking for people to serve in

various roles on the committee. We need members to take pictures for ads and press releases, writers to help create articles, and others to make reminder phone calls and help organize this new committee.

We also would like to collect pictures and articles from past events to be compiled into a reference booklet for future use.

If you are interested in helping make this committee successful, or you have pictures or articles from past events, please contact Joyce Groff at je_groff@msn.com or 627-1901.

We really need your input and help.
Thank you!

~ Your Help is Requested ~

In order to keep the church office and our members' records up-to-date, please notify the church office...

...when you or a family member is in the hospital or has been discharged. (LGH will notify us if you tell them that you are a member when being admitted.)

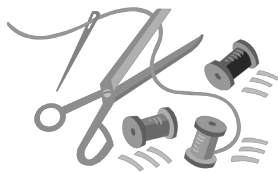
...when you move or change your address or phone number (**including college address and phone number moves.**)

WELCA ...

Hands of Love

<i>Hands</i>	<i>Hands basting</i>
<i>All different</i>	<i>side to side</i>
<i>Hands cutting</i>	<i>top to bottom</i>
<i>squares</i>	<i>diagonally</i>
<i>vivid squares</i>	<i>All together</i>
<i>pastel squares</i>	<i>Machine whirring</i>
<i>patterned squares</i>	<i>zigzagging Almost done</i>
<i>Hands creating</i>	<i>Hands knotting</i>
<i>patterns</i>	<i>pushing in</i>
<i>bold patterns</i>	<i>pulling through</i>
<i>exciting patterns</i>	<i>tying</i>
<i>beautiful patterns</i>	<i>Quilt is done</i>
<i>All different</i>	<i>Hands folding</i>
<i>Hands pinning</i>	<i>packing</i>
<i>rows of squares</i>	<i>sending</i>
<i>rows of patterns</i>	<i>to far away places</i>
<i>into one large piece</i>	<i>Hands receiving</i>
<i>Hands sewing</i>	<i>All different</i>
<i>Machine whirring</i>	<i>Encircling selves</i>
<i>Stitching</i>	<i>feeling warmth</i>
<i>stitching all together</i>	<i>feeling love</i>
<i>Hands placing</i>	<i>Hands of love</i>
<i>bottom layer</i>	
<i>middle layer</i>	
<i>top layer</i>	

The poem above was written by Judy Reed describing the steps that it takes to make and send a quilt.



The Goal Was Attained!!

From September 2008 until June 2009, contributions to the Project Comfort fund reached a total of \$1,500. This means that amount is going to Lutheran World Relief to use for shipping supplies to needy areas of the world. In addition, three bricks will be donated to the Good Samaritan Quilt Plaza at LWR headquarters in Baltimore, MD.

Thank you very, very much for your financial support of this project!! Check out the WELCA bulletin board in the narthex to see a picture of part of the Quilt Plaza.

What is the Good Samaritan Quilt Plaza?

Every day, guests to LWR headquarters in Baltimore are greeted by the beautiful Good Samaritan Quilt Plaza, featuring colorful bricks arranged in a quilt pattern called "Many Trips Around the World." Each engraved brick represents a \$500 donation to LWR's Project Comfort Fund to help ship quilts, layettes, soap, and school, health and sewing kits to people in need around the world.

Proceeds from a Quilt Plaza brick can ship more than 220 quilts to people who have lost all they have to disaster or war. It can deliver 500 sewing kits to women who can use them to generate income for their families, or nearly 385 layettes to welcome newborn babies into the world. When all 10,000 bricks have been purchased, more than \$36 million in quilts, kits and layettes will have been distributed throughout the world with the proceeds! That's all in addition to the legacy your brick will leave for generations to come.

Synod Assembly Report

The Lower Susquehanna Synod held the 22nd Annual Assembly June 11-13, 2009 at Messiah College in Grantham, PA. Pastor Linda Hanus attended, along with voting members, Nancy Miller and Wayne Gongaware representing St. Paul. There were approximately 650 voting members and 200 non-voting members in attendance. The theme of the Assembly was "God's work. Our hands." In addition to the usual business of elections, memorials and resolutions, Rev. Dr. Michael Foss, the author of **Power Surge**, led three Bible Studies as Keynote Speaker.

The worship service on Friday evening was the Service of the Word and Sacrament with the Rite of Ordination and Installation held in the Grantham Brethren in Christ Church. The offerings received at the assembly (\$7,000) are designated one half for student scholarships to Manow Lutheran Secondary School, a school of the Konde Diocese in Tanzania and one half to the Bishops' Congregational Mission Fund.

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Foss

- † *Bible Study One:* Matthew 10:1-15 Reveals the qualities of Jesus as Leader. This passage shows that Jesus lives his leadership and that trust is more powerful than money. He went out among the people; caring, sharing and then calling us. How you reach out with what is inside of you; who you are, is what matters. Trust that what you hear and dream will be put in place in tomorrow's tomorrow.
- † *Bible Study Two:* Acts 6:1-7 Paul shows us that God works through and in people like us: imperfect.
- † *Bible Study Three:* Acts 16:6-10 The Spirit of Jesus did not allow Paul and his companions to go where they thought they were to go and had them end up where he wanted them; not where they thought they were to be. This passage shows that frustration is God's doorway to your future. We are not always ready to receive directions and don't always believe the calling for a new vision. Where's God moving you? Your personal life? Our congregation? 2 Corinthians 8 is the most successful mission of Paul.

Elections:

- † Treasurer - Bruce E. Seagrist, Trinity Lutheran Church, Camp Hill
- † Synod Council Members
 - Clergy - Rev. David L. Hefner, Concordia Lutheran Church, Columbia & Rev. Elizabeth D. George, Zion and Salem Lutheran Churches, Millersburg
 - Lay Female - Lucinda L. Bringman (Incumbent), St. James Lutheran Church, Gettysburg & Judy K. Collins, Trinity Lutheran Church, Camp Hill
 - Lay Male - Thomas C. Benner (Incumbent), Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Liverpool
 - Youth - Alexis K. Witt, Grace Lutheran Church, Red Lion

- † Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg Board of Directors
 - Lay Female - Allison L. Carlson (Incumbent), Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Lancaster
- † Discipline Committee Members
 - Clergy - Rev. Larry G. Hummer, Retired, Faith United Lutheran Church, Denver & Rev. Marie K. Krueger, St. John Lutheran Church, Mt. Wolf
 - Lay - Robert H. Getz, Jr., Mellingers Lutheran Church, Stevens & Richard K. Konkel, Esquire, St. James Lutheran Church, Brogue

Memorials: *(A resolution adopted by a Synod Assembly that specifically addresses the Church-wide Assembly, requesting that a particular action be taken by that body)*

- The Social Statement on Human Sexuality – Adopted: 285 Yes; 280 No
- Affirming current ELCA Policy and Declining to Accept Recommendation on Ministry Policy – substituted by the Recommendation on Ministry Policies Memorial
- Recommendation on Ministry Policies – Defeated: 277 Yes; 296 No
- Calling for a Super Majority to Change Ministry Policies – Adopted: 338 Yes; 202 No
- Lutheran Disaster Response – Adopted (Voice vote)
- Full Implementation of the Church-wide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine – Adopted (Voice vote)
- Ushering in Fullness of Leadership in the ELCA for People of Color or Primary Language Other Than English – Adopted: 240 Yes; 184 No

Resolutions: *(A formal statement of opinion adopted by an assembly or group)*

- Calling for a two-thirds Majority to Change Ministry Policies – Adopted: 216Yes; 177No
- Our Care of Creation – Adopted: 248 Yes, 223 No
- Compensation for Clergy, Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses and Diaconal Ministers – Referred to Compensation & Benefits Committee: 248 Yes; 151 No (This means there was no formal adoption of minimum base salary and housing allowance for 2010. Although the 2010 compensation package was adopted, the resolution regarding keeping track of how many rostered persons in our Synod are and are not compensated according to the Synod's minimum numbers was referred to the committee so that they can come up with a better survey. The Assembly wants the Committee to research and propose a better system for addressing salary and housing allowance increases.)

The budget was approved with minor changes.

The Church-wide Assembly will be held on August 17-22, 2009 in Minneapolis, MN. Approximately 25 people from the Lower Susquehanna Synod will be attending. A Lutheran World Relief DVD will soon be available on the Synod website. It shows how LWR works and the results of the help we provide as well as the teaching of values, aspirations and skills. There will also be a downloadable video link from the Synod website on Dr. Michael Foss's Keynote address and Bible studies from the Assembly. A complete report may be found on the Synod website: www.lss-elca.org

***ELCA Presiding Bishop's Call
to 50 Days of Prayer
God's work. Our hands.***

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

"Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world." We are an evangelizing church, and this mission flows out of a life attentive to God's Word and rooted in unceasing prayer for the Spirit's life-giving work with the Word. In the seven weeks leading to the start of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly on August 17, I invite you to join in 50 days of renewed and focused prayer around the Scriptures that will be used at the assembly, when your co-workers in the Gospel are daily gathered, centered and sent into mission.

The accompanying Scriptures, prayers and songs are a resource you can use in small groups, in individual devotions or as a congregation-wide initiative. As you gather around God's Word, I ask you to pray especially for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, for those who will gather in Minneapolis, for decisions to be made, and for faithfulness in discerning those directions to which God is calling this evangelizing church in mission and service for the sake of the world.

In God's grace,
Mark S. Hanson
Presiding Bishop

Each Day:

One of the following prayers or another prayer might be prayed for this church on each of the 50 days leading up to the assembly:

O God, you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us the light of the Holy Spirit. Direct the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the light of that Spirit, that we might have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

(Adapted from ELW Occasional Services for the Assembly, Opening of Assembly.)

Or

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship)

Or

Almighty God, grant to your Church your Holy Spirit and the wisdom which comes down from heaven, that your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve you and in the confession of your name may abide to the end; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Lutheran Book of Worship)

Each Week:

During the week, individually or in groups, take time to read the assigned scriptures that will form the daily lectionary at the Churchwide Assembly. Spend some time in reflection. Consider the listed questions specific to each of the weekly readings. You might also ask general questions such as the following as you reflect on all these texts:

- * What is God up to in these texts, how do they show forth Christ? What do they say about God, us, and our world?
- * How do these texts send us and equip our witness?
- * As I hear these texts, what would I be concerned about or what person or situation might I see differently than I do now?

Conclude with the prayer listed for that week, which will also be used at the assembly, or another prayer. If you are in a group, consider singing the reflection hymn or another song together.

Week of July 5

(Reflecting on readings and prayer for Tuesday, August 18)

Word:

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; Luke 4:16-21

* What does it mean for you and your life, as well as for the life of this church corporately, to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with God? What are the challenges in this?

* After reading from the scroll, Jesus 19 declares that the word of God has

been fulfilled in its hearing. Where do you see the fulfillment of this word of God living and active in your life, the ELCA and the world?

Prayer:

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reflection Hymns:

We Are Called (ELW 720); Lift Every Voice and Sing (ELW 841); Just a Closer Walk with Thee (ELW 697).

Week of July 12

(Reflecting on readings and prayer for Wednesday, August 19)

Word:

1 Corinthians 12:27—13:13; Luke 9:1-6

* In Paul's description, the body of Christ is formed and shaped by the love of God. How do you live in this love and proclaim it even while living in community that is both blessed with diversity and challenged by disagreements?

* Who do you admire because they have given themselves to a mission? How has God's love pushed you out?

Prayer:

God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Reflection Hymns:

The Son of God, Our Christ (ELW 584); Goodness Is Stronger than Evil (ELW 721); Shine, Jesus, Shine (ELW 671)

Week of July 19

(Reflecting on readings and prayer for Thursday, August 20)

Word:

Philippians 2:1-13; John 13:2b-17

* What does it mean for you to know that we are not all of one mind, but we are all under the cross?

* Jesus “loved them to the end” with an act of humility. How are you challenged in your life and how are we encouraged in this church to love one another in humble service, gently caring for one another in our greatest vulnerability?

Prayer:

Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal your Son established a new covenant for all people, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these signs of our life in faith may speak

again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Reflection Hymns:

Where True Charity and Love Abide (Ubi Caritas) (ELW 653); At the Name of Jesus (ELW 416); The Wonderful Cross (CCLI #3148435); Will You Let Me Be Your Servant (ELW 659)

Week of July 26

(Reflecting on readings and prayer for Friday, August 21)

Word:

Leviticus 19:1-2a, 9-18; John 15:9-17

* God declares, “I am the LORD your God,” and we live in the assurance of that proclamation. How does that assurance change how you interact with the people in your own life and the places in the life of the world that are suffering, hurting, and broken?

* How would you describe some of the fruits that the love of Jesus has allowed you to bear in your life? Can you imagine being called a friend by Jesus? How does that differ from being called a servant?

Prayer:

Holy God, source of all love, you command us to love one another. By your Holy Spirit, conform our lives to

your will so that our words and actions reveal the care and redemption you have shown to all your people through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Reflection Hymns:

O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate (ELW 722); Here I Am, Lord (ELW 574)

Week of August 2

(Reflecting on readings and prayer for Saturday, August 22)

Word:

Acts 2:42-47; Luke 20:45—21:4

- * How is your congregation similar and dissimilar from the congregation described in Acts? What might being there for each other in-season and out-of-season look and feel like for you?
- * Who has unexpectedly shown you the grace of God that brings life? In what unexpected places have you found a great wealth of faith, generosity and service?

Prayer:

O God, you show forth your almighty power chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy. Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Reflection Hymn:

Take My Life, That I May Be (ELW 583); Lord, Be Glorified (ELW 744); This Little Light of Mine (ELW 677)

Week of August 9

(Reflecting on readings and prayer for Sunday, August 23)

Word:

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

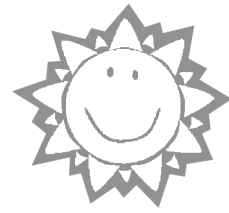
- * What are the gods that compete for your life and the lives of our communities? What are some of the ways that “you and your household” serve the Lord? How has God supported, sustained and nourished you in this service?
- * What are some of the spiritual battles or struggles in your life? What do you need from God to stand against these things?
- * What unique or shared tools has God given you, your congregation and this church for declaring that Jesus is the “Holy One of God”? What impedes that proclamation? What frees it?

Prayer:

Holy God, your Word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Reflection Hymns:

We Who Once Were Dead (ELW 495); Thy Word Is a Lamp (TFBF 132); Thy Strong Word (ELW 511)



St. Paul Christian Child Care Center Facts

Did you know?

- We currently serve 80 families and have 105 children enrolled in the program ranging from 6 months through 4th grade.
- Ninety-five percent of the teachers at St. Paul CCCC have either a college degree in Elementary Education, Early Childhood or Child Development Associates.
- All teachers are required to receive an additional 24 hours of professional development per year.
- We also have two teacher in-service days a year to help teachers with this requirement and have monthly staff meetings.
- We pride ourselves in providing a family orientated work environment were a teacher's family is also important.
- We have three teachers that have been at the center for over 20 years with the staff having a combined total of 167 years of employment at St. Paul CCCC.
- Mark Mueller volunteers once a week to teach our preschoolers bible stories.
- All of our staff are certified in Pediatric First Aid.
- The classrooms are having a competition to raise money for the roof. Children were asked to do chores around the house and to help others to earn coins for their classroom jars.
- We had a family picnic on Thursday June 11th. We served hotdogs and sloppy joes and had carnival games for the children.
- During the summer months, we take the children to swimming lessons at the Lititz Springs Pool.



Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Sunday School...

AUGSBURG

July 5 "God Calls People to Covenant"
Dave Althouse

July 12 "God Calls People to Remember"

George Nickel

July 19 "God Calls People to Special Service" Diana Hill

July 26 "God Calls People to Jubilee"
Janice Hackman

Aug. 2 "People Grumble"
Frank Wood

Aug. 9 "People Rebel"
Don Shaub

Aug. 16 "Moses Disobeys"
Tom Herrmann

Aug. 23 "God Calls for Obedience"
George Nickel

Aug. 30 "God Calls for Decision"
Nancy Weiss

The Augsburg class meets in the lounge on Sunday mornings from 8:00 – 9:15 AM. Everyone is welcome to join the class.



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The People of St. Paul

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Ray Letteer

Part-Time Evening Custodian

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