



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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The Rev. Gregory W. Frey, Pastor

JUNE, 2014

I am not sure what practical effect the recent 5-4 Supreme Court decision affirming the right of government officials to begin their public meetings with prayer will have, but at least it may be a stimulus to cause people of faith to think again about what prayer is and what it is not.

On May 5th the United States Supreme Court ruled that government meetings may begin with prayers so long as they do not discriminate against particular religions. By a 5-4 ruling, the court sided with the town of Greece, New York, saying that prayer at town meetings "fits within the tradition" followed by Congress and state legislatures. Since the prayer is ceremonial and not related to policymaking, the court said, it is therefore not an unconstitutional establishment of religion.

The Obama administration surprised many people last August when it filed a friend-of-the-court brief on behalf of the town and the right to begin its public meetings with prayer. Writing for the majority, Justice Anthony Kennedy said, the prayers should be seen as ceremonial and in keeping with the nation's traditions. "The inclusion of a brief, ceremonial prayer as part of a larger exercise in civic recognition suggests that its purpose and effect are to acknowledge religious leaders and the institutions they represent, rather than to exclude or coerce nonbelievers," Kennedy said.

So, from our Christian perspective what could possibly be wrong with such a decision? What troubles me is what prayer has to become in order to be acceptable within a civic procedure; namely it has to become...ceremonial. *Ceremonial* is generally defined, and more

importantly understood to mean: marked by a ceremony - without real power or influence. We all know what *ceremonial* means. If your role within an organization is *ceremonial* you know it has no real power or authority. Is that what prayer is?

This is really important. This is not nit picking, if prayer does not change people, if it is not powerful and effective what value can it have except to become merely...ceremonial?

I understand why Justice Kennedy described prayer using terms such as traditional and ceremonial, otherwise they could not have ruled as they did. I also understand the desire to have public events, meetings and...ceremonies, begin with prayer. But I suspect that in order to make prayer in such settings acceptable it has to be so emasculated as to be more harmful than good. Heaping up empty phrases of ceremonial speech renders prayer feeble and ineffective. No speech is as pathetic as a prayer to no one in particular saying nothing much.

This may be why Jesus was not so keen on civic prayer. Aside from participating in the prayers at synagogue and Jewish religious festivals, Jesus tended to avoid public prayer in favor of prayers from solitude. In the gospels Jesus' is constantly going off to a "deserted place" by himself to pray. The secluded prayer life of Jesus annoyed the disciples who had to request that Jesus teach them to pray as John the Baptist taught his disciples (Lk 11:1).

In the *Sermon on the Mount* Jesus addressed public prayer directly and those words should be the seminal Christian guide on the matter. "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.' (Mt 6:5-8)

Perhaps Christians would accomplish more dynamic and faithful work praying *for* public officials rather than *before* them. We should pray often that the decisions made by our public officials conform to the will of God for justice and equity for all people. And whenever we lift up our hearts in prayer may God help us to believe that prayer is a powerful and effective means of change within ourselves and our world.

--Pastor Frey

WORSHIP IN JUNE

June 1	8:00 & 10:30 AM – Holy Communion 9:15 AM – Sunday School
June 7	6:00 PM – Holy Communion
June 8	8:00 & 10:30 AM – Pentecost/Holy Communion 9:15 AM – Sunday School
June 14	6:00 PM – Holy Communion
June 15	8:00 & 10:30 AM – Holy Communion 9:15 AM – Sunday School
June 21	6:00 PM – Holy Communion
June 22	8:00 & 10:30 AM – Worship 9:15 AM – Sunday School
June 28	6:00 PM – Holy Communion
June 29	8:00 & 10:30 AM – Worship 9:15 AM – Sunday School

FROM THE PARISH RECORDS.....

Baptisms: May 4, 2014

Lucas Santos Gross, son of Chris & Bianca (Santos) Gross

Kiley Harper Davidheiser, daughter of Ryan & Jen Davidheiser

May 25, 2014

Amelia Ryan Fretz, daughter of Nicholas & Amanda (Kerns) Fretz

Funeral: May 13 – **Mildred Schonely**

A NOTE FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR.....

Summer time is fast approaching. Some people think things slow down in the Church over the summer. True we have more people on vacation and Committees take at least July off from meetings. But I have been busy planning summer events.

First, June 22 - 26 (Sunday through Thursday) from 6-8 pm is Vacation Bible School. This is a time to explore more closely some stories in a variety of ways – storytelling, science, crafts, games, reflection, and music. Oh yes and snacks are even curriculum coordinated. We do begin the evening at 5:30 pm with dinner for families rushing home from work. Sunday evening we begin with a covered dish. Other evenings we provide the meal. Helpers are needed in several areas. Check the details on St. Paul’s website along with a registration form.



Second, Sunday June 8 we begin summer Sunday Church School. All ages meet in one room to explore for an hour “Celebrate What God Can Do.” Most of the lessons are based on Old Testament stories which we do not spend much time with during the school year. In order to give our SCS staff a vacation, a different person leads the class each week. This year the curriculum is already planned so we invite some youth to try their hand at leading a session this summer.

Third, the Child Development Center will be working off the general VBS theme of WOW! Each week the children will explore imagination, building and growing. I have challenged the teachers to find ways to WOW the children every day. We have a few openings in the School Age Room (Kindergarten - Grade 5).

May you have a restful summer enjoying God's creation.

--Marlane Druckenmiller

WOMEN'S GROUP

Tuesday, June 24 @ 9:30 am at the Church 10:00 am at Gasser's
Topic: "Miniature Golf"

Because of Vacation Bible School we will not be meeting in the evening. While golfing with the SPYY group I discovered that Tuesdays at Gasser's is \$2.00 a game day. I had forgotten how much fun and strategically challenging miniature golf was. So let's take a day to let our child out. And then on the way home we will stop at Jess and Jen's for lunch and Leiby's ice cream. Please sign the sheet so I can let Gasser's know how many adults are coming that day.



LABYRINTH GROUP.....

Monday, June 9 we will leave the Church parking lot at 10 am for the labyrinth at Shenkel's UCC Church followed by lunch at Coventry Parlor

I am learning that the meal location is as important as the meditative walk.

ADULT FORUM meets Sundays at 9:15 am in the Church Library. We have spent several Sundays exploring the illuminations of the St. John's Bible. The group will make a decision if they want to continue over the summer.

ST. PAUL'S CHRISTIAN PRE-SCHOOL registrations for the 2014-15 school year have been coming in. Morning classes are full. There are still some openings in the afternoon classes for three and four year olds. Three year old children must be three by August 31, 2014. Forms are available on the table in the narthex or by calling 610-385-3333.

COME TO 2014 VBS

"Imagine & Build with God ... His Workshop of Wonders"!!!

Come join us for VBS at St. Paul's Lutheran Church from June 22nd – June 26th from 6:00pm - 8:00pm. We will be doing science projects, music, games, story, crafts, and snacks. We will open VBS on Sunday June 22nd at 5:30 – please join as a family and bring with you your favorite covered dish and a gallon of something to drink. We will also have an open salad bar every night. We have a great menu lined up with lots of good food. We also ask that you wear something ... **"ORANGE"**. The color for the next day will be announced at the closing of VBS every night. The cost is \$12 per child before June 8 and \$15 after that date. We will be learning about the Story of Esther, The Rebuilding of the Lord's House, The Parable of the Mustard Seed, Feed the 5,000, and The Walk to Emmaus. Oh, and by the way, don't come by yourself ... invite friends and family to come with you!!



I am excited about our Workshop with God and I am sure you will be too!!

Ladies, gentleman, and cooks of St. Paul's congregation ... We have 2 "VERY EASY" recipes for dinners for the week of VBS ... 6/22 - 6/26. If you like to cook and would like to volunteer to make one or both of these dishes, we would greatly appreciate it!!!! Please call or email Michele Fisher at 610-468-3668 or memomj@ptd.net or Marlane for the recipe.

Hope to see everyone at 2014 Vacation Bible School!!

--Michele Fisher

BEAR CREEK CAMP IS TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER

CAMPING. This Eastern PA Lutheran Camp is located near Wilkes-Barre, PA. The theme for the summer is SET FREE! using John 8:36. Try Camp is a 3 day program for children who have completed Gr 1-2; Juniors Camp is a full week for Gr 2-4; Middlers is a full week for Gr 5-6; Junior High is for Gr 7-8; Senior High is for Gr 9-12 with several nights camping and exploring the Camp as they experience outdoor living skills.

Costs range from \$200-\$470. Our Church has one \$100 coupon available. See Ms. Marlane for more information. A few brochures and registration forms are on the table in the narthex and education entrance.

Camp Counselors are also needed. More information at www.bearcreekcamp.org

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE NEWS.....

During the month of May we gathered a few supplies for Personal Care Kits needed for Disaster Relief. We will continue into June. Sheets are available on the table in the narthex with detailed instructions, or you can visit Lutheran World Relief’s website. The following items are needed to complete Personal Care Kits:

- ✎ one light-weight bath-size towel (20"x 40" to 52"x 27"), dark color recommended
- ✎ two bath-size bars (4-5 oz.) of soap, in original wrapping
- ✎ one adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- ✎ one sturdy comb (no picks or fine-toothed combs); remove packaging
- ✎ one metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

Bring any one item or a complete kit or make a cash contribution. If you are a CLUB member and would be able to make some purchases in bulk, please speak with Ms. Marlane D to discuss our needs and funds available.

In July and August we will work on School Kits. Watch next month for items needed for those kits.

Supplemental funds have been applied for from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. We will find a day to go shopping and assemble the kits. Watch the bulletin and Eblast for details.

YOUTH NEWS!!!.....



SPLAT (St. Paul’s Lutheran Active Teens) – next meeting will be a sleepover at the church Friday, **June 6**, 6 pm to Saturday, **June 7**, 10 am. We will have Friday night dinner and Saturday breakfast, with lots of fun in between. Bring your sleeping bags, favorite game, and favorite snack.

Come on out and join the fun! Look for a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex. Hope to see you all there.

SPYY (St Paul’s Younger Youth) Meeting -- Saturday, June 14 at 12 noon
Pool Party at Yambor home
More details to follow.



THANK YOU!! For a successful Basket Social.....

Thank you to all who donated a basket, dessert, and some time to make our Basket Social such a success. We had 120 baskets and took in \$1,970 in ticket sales which went to the Renovations Fund. Some folks have returned baskets to the office which we will store for next year’s event. A special thank you to Joanne Guss and Carole Barbary for visiting our local businesses and asking for donations. Each Child Development Center class asked parents to donate an item for a themed basket.

CONGREGATIONAL WORK DAY WAS A HUGE SUCCESS. Thanks to the many workers who helped with outside and inside work. Many people who visit here comment on our lovely grounds. Thank you volunteers!

LADIES NIGHT OUT was a fun time as we took a look at the tables set by our hostesses. Some women even braved wearing a hat to the party. We acknowledged the best set table, the nicest hat, the best centerpiece, and the best themed table. The five course meal was prepared by Bause Catering and Betsy Chapman, harpist played as we enjoyed the food and conversation. Thank you Denise Buckwalter for the idea and all the decorations and door prizes.



WEEKLY PRAYER SERVICE

Wednesdays--9:00 AM



We pray for every member of the congregation on Wednesday mornings at 9 am. If you see your name here it is not because we think you have a specific need for prayer, but to let you know you are in our prayers whatever your need may be. On Wednesday mornings we also pray for churches around the world, leaders in the ELCA, our staff and council members, our political leaders, those in the military, special requests, and many more. If you are free a Wednesday morning, stop in and join us. We are always finished before 9:30 AM. Included this month in our prayers will be: Kathy Cicalia, Trevor Cicalia, Maxwell Cicalia, Christian Cicalia, Allen Hetzell, Patti Hetzell, Jennie Clouser, Matthew Cloutier, Brittany Cloutier, Addison Cloutier, Tyler Cloutier, Jack Cooke, Bruce Cope, Pam Cope, Isaac Cope, Anthony Corley, Jennifer Corley, Zachary Corley, Anne Cormier, Tiana Gallagher, Stuart Crichton, Rosalynda Crichton, Maddalena Crichton, Alexander Crichton, and Nathaniel Crichton. If you have anyone to add to the prayer list, please fill out a Prayer Request Card found in the pew racks or call the church office. Please pray for those with special concerns: Rosie Jones, Sandy Murphy, Joan Kucharik, Lisa Rock, Scott Brown, Tom Schadt, family & friends of Janet Ruyak, Mildred Schoenly, and all others listed below and those we name in our hearts: Darla, Karen Albright, Delphine Altland, Geraldine Barbone, Matthew Barron, Pauline Bean, Charlotte Beil, Sandra Berger, Collin Bethel, Olivia Blair, Anne Bonekemper, Kathleen Breitigan, Alton Brown, Charles Brown, Jeff Brown, Bryan B., Ralph Buschpics, Donna Buskirk, Bryan Buss, Patti Christman, James Cinaglia, Jacqui Cramer, Jason Cutter, Nancy Danby, Shelli Davidheiser, Barbara DePrefontaine, Jack Dilks, Cindy Fake, Joanne Ferreri, Lauren Freeman, Aaron Gabriel, Ida Gilbert, Ron Glaser, Robert Graeff, Debbie Graff, Heidi Greenwald, Ed Guss, Jan Haas, June Henninger, Darrin Holsopple, Alison Hughes, Keith Hunter, Peter Jones, Rosie Jones, Brien Kalnoski, Marjorie Keller, Todd Kelly, Elizabeth Kiddy, Joe Kinder, Jim Kline, Randy Kolb, Donna Lambert, Daniel Lee, Liane Lefever, Lisa Lerch, Eileen Loose, Gloria Lutz, Ronald McCarraher, Steve McClaskey, Catherine Manning, Bill Marvel, Mary Jane, Linda Merkle, Paul Michalski, Gordon Miller, Laurel Miller, David Murphy, Ron Mutter, Anna McGearry Perks, Cecilia Peachey, Richard Pool, Betty Pope, Heather Powers, Joseph Rennock, Linda Rinehart, Melvin Schurr, Shalom, Shelly Sobel, Nancy Steffy, Zach Strunk, Pauline Trout, Grace Vickers, Cindy Weiler, Anne Weiser, Charlotte Wendel, shut-ins—Ada Ashcroft, Frank Brown, Mary Levengood, Marie Linsenbigler, Jake Messner, Helen Oxenford, John Prinzing, Laura Schmale, Grace Weiler.

Note there are Prayer Request Cards in the pew racks.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER NEWS.....

It's hard to believe that it is already June. If you are wondering where the month of May has gone, you are not alone! Throughout the month, the Child Development Center celebrated many exciting events. The children presented their mothers with lovely keepsakes and mementos to honor Mother's Day. The classrooms are busy making final preparations for the end of the school year and the start of the Summer Program. The theme for the program this year is "Wonder & Wow: Imagine, Build and Grow". The program will begin on June 9th and end on August 29th.

The Pre-School classes held their graduation ceremonies on May 21, 2014. The children and their families enjoyed a wonderful evening in honor of the hard work and dedication demonstrated by all over the past school year. We would like to congratulate the Pre-School graduates and wish them good luck in their future educational endeavors. In addition, the Pre-School also hosted their traditional end-of-the-year picnics. We wish all of the Pre-School children and families a wonderful summer.

Thank you for the recent donations of toys, books and diapers. As always, we appreciate your support.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES.....

From Daniel Boone High School:

Alexandra Childs	Darby McCleary
Dale Harvey	Raymond Miller
Jeffrey Krystopa	Cuthbert Nairn, IV
Dylan Marquette	Harlan Swavely

From institutions of higher learning:

David Barr – Mansfield
Brett Simmons – Penn State
Megan Sowers – Indiana University of PA
Amanda Childs – Penn State

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MEETING – May 14, 2014.....

- Financial Secretary, Joe Koury, reported a deficit of \$8,125 at the end of April. Contributions to the general fund are down and contributions to the renovations fund are down 28%.
- Approved a motion to accept the reports of the Pastor, Christian Education Coordinator, and Financial Secretary.
- Approved a recommendation from the Child Development Committee to replace the toddler playground.
- Elected Fred & Mary Ellen Hoffert as our voting members to the Synod Assembly.
- Approved the purchase of a photocopy machine from Edwards Business Systems.
- Approved the following for confirmation: Sean Bologna, Justin Frey, Madelyn Hicks, Sarah Hoag, Bryce Johnson, Andrew Kresge, Alexander Kutz, Rachel Lau, Alexander Maloney

LOOKING AHEAD.....

Planning will begin for the Fall Festival. If you are interested in helping with this event join Art Yerger on Sunday, June 15 at 9:15 am to begin planning for October 4th event.



6/1	Nicole Byrd	6.14	Susanne Walley
6/2	Tracy Detwiler	6/15	Kylie Oesterling
6/3	Paige DePrefontaine	6/16	Sean Bologa
	Janice Goodman	6/17	Gene Geiger
	Kathy Kline		Darvin Levensgood
	Cory Miller		Andy Mooney
	Jared Miller	6/19	Addison Cloutier
6/4	Lucas Garcia		Jennifer MacMullin
	Aspyn Shaffer		Brianna Wlajnitz
	Ryan Siwinski	6/20	Lylia DePrefontaine
	Justin Sowers		Matt Simmons
6/5	June Geiger	6/22	Patricia Sowers
	Avery Yetter		Maxwell Cicala
6/6	George Heath		Lincoln Stoudt
	Donna Smith		Larry Swavely
6/7	David Hiser	6/23	Eric Kupp
	David Holeman		Michael Spohn
	Daniel Lee		Rick Weiler
6/9	Janet Levensgood	6/24	Leroy DePrefontaine
6/10	Tammy Eisenhard		Rory Emery
	Nick Freitag	6/25	Greg Kresge
6/11	Gregory Hensley		Jake Musselman
	Mark McConnell	6/26	Raymond Miller
	James Wolfe		Carl Pratt
	Ken Yoder	6/27	Charles Brown
6/12	Charles Fix		Richard Demming
	Christa Oister		Shirley Holeman
	April Royer		Walt Marchewski
6/13	Matt Kresge	6/30	Karen Brown
	Jan Schell		Garrett Gabel
6/14	Riley Muschick		Lilian Reber

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO –

Mike & Missy Gregos	6/1	23 yrs.
Rich & Kristin Saylor	6/3	8 yrs.
Len & Gerry Trauger	6/3	53 yrs.
Carl & Margie Pratt	6/4	26 yrs.
Jamie & Sara Trout	6/4	3 yrs.
Gordon & Pearl Miller	6/5	66 yrs.
Dale & Kathy Szajek	6/5	38 yrs.
Charles & Margaret Burns	6/7	62 yrs.
Jay & Pat McClafferty	6/14	39 yrs.
Dave & Sue Prizer	6/14	39 yrs.
Bill & Debbie Byrd	6/15	29 yrs.
John & Linda Heisey	6/15	46 yrs.
Ray & Carolyn DiSandro	6/17	8 yrs.
Ron & Kathy Rhoads	6/18	37 yrs.
Daniel & Darlene Light	6/20	55 yrs.
Lynwood & Joan Weil	6/20	33 yrs.
Tom & Faye Schadt	6/22	18 yrs.
Jack & Jeane Serrian	6/22	23 yrs.
Jerry & Jennifer MacMullin	6/24	25 yrs.
John & Tiffany Cappellano	6/25	9 yrs.
Craig & Wendy Yambor	6/26	15 yrs.
Judd & Tammy Eisenhard	6/28	6 yrs.
Dave & Shirley Holeman	6/28	39 yrs.
Harry & Carol Hafer	6/29	46 yrs.
Tom Beil & Elizabeth Jablonski	6/30	7 yrs.

--GENERAL FUND REPORT --April, 2014--

	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Last Year</u>	<u>% of Change</u>
Total Income	\$ 390,619.65	\$ 408,074.48	-4.3%
Total Expense	\$ 398,744.60	\$ 351,936.49	13.3%
Net Income	\$ -8,124.95	\$ 56,137.99	-114.5%

June 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8 & 10:30—Holy Com. 9:15—Sunday School 11:45—New member luncheon Flute recital 7 PM—Nar-Anon	2 8 AM—Pastors breakfast 6 PM—Christian Ed. @ Jablonski's	3 Quilting 6:15—TOPS 6:15—Child Dev.	4 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30-Bible Study 6:30—Kindergarten Spring concert 7 PM—DBHS Baccalaureate	5	6 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> 6 PM—10 AM—SPLAT sleepover </div>	7 6 PM—Holy Comm.
8 <i>Pentecost</i> 8 & 10:30—Holy Com. 9:15—Sumer Sunday School 9:15 AM—Finance 7 PM—Nar-Anon	9 10 AM—Labyrinth Gr. 7 PM—Pastoral Care	10 Quilting 6:15--TOPS	11 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30-Bible Study 6:15—Executive Com 7 PM--Council	12 6 PM—T ³ Comm. 6-9 PM—CDC Training 7 PM—Prayer Shawl Ministry	13	14 Noon—SPYY pool party @ Yambors 6 PM—Holy Comm.
15 8 & 10:30—Holy Com. Grad. recognition 9:15—Sunday School Social Ministry after 10:30 7 PM—Nar-Anon	16	17 Quilting 6:15--TOPS	18 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30-Bible Study	19 7:30 P.M.—Crime Watch	20	21 7:30 AM—Property Byrd wedding 6 PM—Holy Comm.
22 8 & 10:30—Worship 9:15—Sunday School 7 PM—Nar-Anon	23	24 Quilting 9:30 AM—Women's Gr. Mini-golf	25 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30-Bible Study	26	27	28 6 PM—Holy Comm.
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> ----- VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ----- </div>						
29 8 & 10:30—Worship 9:15—Sunday School 7 PM—Nar-Anon	30	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> Council persons in charge of services— Fred Hoffert, Michele Fisher </div>				

