



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
548 OLD SWEDE ROAD
DOUGLASSVILLE PA 19518

Telephone (610) 385-6616

Fax (610) 385-6690

www.stpaulsdouglassville.com

info@stpaulsdouglassville.com

The Rev. Gregory W. Frey, Pastor

AUGUST, 2015

Moving bricks around the last few days with Justin in preparation for his Eagle Scout project, a brick labyrinth, set me to thinking about the Hebrew slaves hauling bricks in Egypt. One thing I rediscovered is that bricks are heavy...heavier than you think...typically 4.5 lbs. each. It doesn't take all that many bricks to really weigh you, or your car down.

The book of Exodus centers on the most significant event in the Old Testament, Israel's liberation from slavery in Egypt. The movement of the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt into the Promised Land under the leadership of Moses is the narrative around which the whole of the Hebrew Scriptures pivot. It also is the foundational story for how Christians came to understand and describe the liberation found in Jesus Christ as a movement from death to life, from slavery into freedom.

Cecil B. Demille (and not the church lectionary) has familiarized us with the story. The Israelites travel down to Egypt to escape famine and end up living there under the benevolence of hometown-hero Joseph who is second in command to Pharaoh. But a new line of pharaohs arise who feel differently about the Israelite immigrants and decide to enslave and oppressed them. The Pharaoh forces them to make the bricks for his storehouses. Everyday...bricks, bricks, and more bricks. There is no day off. And all these bricks are for nothing more than storing Pharaoh's stuff. Imagine the monotony of making bricks every day, hauling those bricks around and seeing no chance for reprieve or rest and you get an idea of what Hebrew slavery was like.

We human beings are prone to slavery even if (especially if) we don't recognize it. If we are not enslaved by someone else we tend to enslave ourselves.

Rob Bell, a popular Christian writer and preacher, wrote recently about a new kind of bondage to bricks which have not been imposed on us but we have imposed upon ourselves. These modern bricks are smaller and lighter than traditional bricks but can be no less burdensome. The modern bricks to which Bell referred are our cells phones.

Even acknowledging all the wonderful things these amazing devices can do and the possibilities for connection and communication they offer they also have the capacity to put great distance between their users and the people in their immediate surroundings. You know what I mean. Everywhere you go it seems, more and more people are disengaged with one another and fixated on their palm sized worlds.

Again, these are amazing devices. I own one, use it, enjoy it but also recognize that there is the potential for bondage to it. Not only does it interfere with regular human interaction but it makes us omni-available. Calls, texts, emails...we are always available, always on call, always on duty. In a sense we are increasingly enslaved to our availability and all that is entailed by and expected of us in the increasing online social world we are creating.

Consider this, how many calls, texts or emails require immediate response? Really? I was *off* the other day and someone left a message on my phone then sent an email to ask about borrowing some tables for an event a month away (not members of the congregation, by the way). Since I didn't respond within a few hours (I was *off*...remember) their son connected via social media with my son to get a response from me. It wasn't that I was being obstinate or indifferent, I just don't generally respond to such requests when I am *off*. Now, the person making the request probably didn't know that I was *off*. They were not at fault. But that's part of the point. There are very fuzzy boundaries these days around when we are *off* and when we are *on* and virtually no boundaries around our expected availability especially if we are prone to feeling guilty if we impose limits on our electronic availability. (Please note that while I write this a sense of absurdity is not lost on me concerning the fact that this is the kind of issue with which we are

plagued. *“First-World Problems!”* my kids would say. But considering the damage being done to our social capital and experience of community I believe this is a serious issue.)

So what is to be done? The answer is not smashing our devices and going totally off the grid. Rather, we might reconsider the principles of Sabbath around which the newly liberated community of Israel was formed.

When the Israelites were delivered from their bondage in Egypt and were redefined as a people by God through the covenant commandments they didn't swear off work, they swore off slavery. A Sabbath was inserted as a time of not working in order to remember that there was more to them than their production. This is important enough to say again. God defined Israel not by what they produced but by their relationship with God and one another. The Sabbath was meant to be a time to be re-created as human beings not human doings, re-connected to God and one another, and restored in their relationships to God and one another.

Amazingly, after the Exodus the people of Israel found they had a hard time letting go of their slavery and the people begged Moses to go back. In a sense this is a continuing problem for us humans, if we are not enslaved by someone else we enslave ourselves. But liberation is the specialty of the God of Israel and the God of Jesus Christ. We need to discover what Sabbath might mean in our various bondages to our electronic overlords.

A Sabbath from electronic slavery is the discipline of not using them at certain times, in certain places and in certain situations. This requires an act of will and a recognition that real community should take priority over virtual community. This is not to say that there isn't amazing potential in the connections we can now make with people across the globe, just that these connections must not stand in the way of the connections we might make with the people across the room.

Our God is a god of Sabbath, a god who commands us to be defined by nothing beside what God has made us to be, human beings created by God, in loving fellowship with God and one another. A healthy notion of

Sabbath is less about a particular day of the week and more about taking the time to remember who we truly are and who we belong to.

Do you need such a Sabbath from your smart phone? If you are sitting at a dinner table with other people and you are counting “likes” on a photo you recently posted the answer is yes. If you are replying to a text not related to the emergency room while you are watching a movie with others the answer may be yes. If you can't go an hour without checking your email you need to think about whose calling the shots in your life. You need some Sabbath.

So back to where I started. Sometimes those bricks we haul around are a lot more burdensome than we thought. But here is the Good News, our God is the God of exodus, the God of liberation, and the God of Sabbath. Put down your phone, thank God for something, say hello to somebody in your proximity and let a little Sabbath set you free.

--Pastor Frey

WORSHIP IN AUGUST

August 1	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
August 2	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion 9:15 A.M. – Summer Sunday School
August 8	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
August 9	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship 9:15 A.M. – Summer Sunday School
August 15	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
August 16	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion 9:15 A.M. – Summer Sunday School
August 22	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
August 23	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship 9:15 A.M. – Summer Sunday School
August 29	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
August 30	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship 9:1 A.M. – Summer Sunday School

FROM THE PARISH RECORDS.....

Funerals: July 10 – Louis Benedict

July 13 – Walter Marchewski

Baptism: July 18 – Olivia Yuhasz, daughter of Stephen Yuhasz and Melissa Matz

Contributions to the **Memorial Fund** in memory of **Larry Schell** given by:

Brian & Christine Grenier Charles & Joyce Drey
Gene & Denise Buckwalter John & Kay Bonslaver

Contributions to the **Renovations Fund** in memory of **Larry Schell** given by:

Betty Brumbach Alice Baer
Choir Amity Township Lions Club
Ed & Joanne Guss John & Kathy Meehan
Diane Davis

Contributions to the **Memorial Fund** in memory of **Walt Marchewski** given by:

Carol DeLong Ed & Michele Soltis
Calvin & Ellen Sheeler Jack & Charlotte Fenzil
Ed & Michele Soltis Greg & Norma Godon
Charles & Linda Merkle



Contributions to the **Renovations Fund** in memory of **Walt Marchewski** given by:

Mary Graefe Frank & Dorothy Brown
Charles & Fern Brown Gerald & Pat Levengood
Jan Schell Betty Brumbach
Russ & Betty High

Contributions to the **Memorial Fund** in memory of **Louis Benedict** given by:

Louis & Grace Andre The Bill Eaken family
William & Sandra Mills Russell & Jeri Diesinger
Harrisburg Collegiate Basketball Officials Assn.
Grace Frankhouser

Contributions to the **Renovations Fund** in memory of **Louis Benedict** given by:

Mary Graefe Russ & Betty High
John & Kathy Meehan Jan Schell

A NOTE FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR.....

Thank you for all the cards, phone calls, visits, transportation, and food given to me following my surgery. Healing is slow and steady. More time at home has given me a lot of reflection time.

In May my trip to Ireland had many purposes. One was to meet the request of a colleague to visit the country of her ancestry, another was to work on some continuing education. In preparation for this trip I read several books and several web sites. Some of this information was used with the Labyrinth Group for one session discussing Sacred Space. While we did not see any labyrinths in Ireland, we did notice some circle patterns on the stones at the ancient Knowth graves and in the Celtic designs. We agreed that the labyrinth can take ordinary space into sacred space by setting it apart for a holy purpose. So also the words of institution at communion take ordinary elements and bread and wine and set them apart for a holy purpose.

Reflecting further on my continuing education I sought to explore more of Celtic Spirituality. Three things seemed to stand out.

First, St. Patrick helped spread Christianity quickly because he took what the people already knew and combined it with a new concept. The circle was an early symbol of faith in the Celtic lands. You can quickly recognize the Celtic cross because it takes the cross of the early Christian symbol and superimposes a circle of the earlier faith. I remember from Brownie scouting days the song “Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver and the other gold.” So Celtic spirituality kept the old and incorporated the new making a precious understanding of the God of all time.



Second, the art of the generations including that in the Book of Kells, the Book of Durrow, and many other pieces of art highlight the intertwining of plants, animals, and humans. The Celtic knots reflect an understanding of co-existence in the world. Seeing the pictures on these pages, the “labyrinth walker’s eye” tries to follow the lines to find a path to follow. The eyes quickly become crossed because the items are so intertwined. These Celtic knots look like roots of a tree of life. In life the elements of plants, animals, and humans work together for a healthy and beautiful entity on earth.



Third, the trinity dominates every teaching of St. Patrick and other ancient storytellers. We know of Patrick’s use of the shamrock to explain the trinity—three parts one leaf to three characteristics one God. I discovered that much of the poetry, songs, prayers and blessings are in sets of three lines. Stories have three characters. Tales were generated from three sources—the kings, the bards, and the monks. The harp had three melodies—one that makes you weep, one to laugh, and one to sleep.



This is just a few things I picked up on my trip to Ireland. Hebrews 13:8 “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

ADULT FORUM is taking a break for the summer. Some folks said they will gather in Fellowship Hall with the coffee pot and some snacks and look at the Saturday religion page and other newspaper articles and discuss how the topic relate to our faith.

NEXT WOMEN’S RETREAT.....
Friday, Oct. 9—Saturday, Oct. 10. More details later.



WOMEN’S GROUP.....

Tuesday, Aug 25 @ 7 pm
Silk Scarf Party

The art of taking a print from ink floating in water has Japanese and Turkish roots. Each Ebru (marbling) silk scarf is 15 x 72 inches which is painted, not dyed and guaranteed the colors will not fade, run or wash out.

Cost \$35 for supplies to “make and take” your own scarf

Money and reservation are due August 16th

Checks payable to “St Paul’s Lutheran Church” with Memo: Women’s Group

For more information check: www.createyourownsilkscarf.com

Next event is Sep 22 -- A visit to The Red Tent, 580 Willow St, Reading, Cost \$7. More details later.

LABYRINTH GROUP.....

In August we will check out the progress of Justin Frey’s Eagle Scout project. On Monday, August 10, we will gather at 10 am to walk St. Paul’s Labyrinth for the first time as a group and discuss ideas for landscaping the surrounding area, others items needed, introductory events to offer, and a dedication service.

AMITY FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE INVITES YOU

Do you remember “In the Mood” and “Pennsylvania 6-5000”? Then come along with the Amity Friendship Circle’s Bus Trip to Penn’s Peak on Thursday October 8, 2015 to hear the memorable music of Glenn Miller, enjoy a delicious family-style dinner and hopefully see some beautiful Fall foliage - all for \$73 per person. Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or call Jan Schell at 610-779 7409. The bus leaves the church parking lot at 9:30 AM and returns around 4:30 - 5:00 PM. Payment deadline is Sunday September 13, 2015. Please join us for a fun day!!





STUDENTS:

Help us to keep in touch with you while you're away from home. If you're heading off to college, please let the church know your college address.

FALL APPLE FESTIVAL

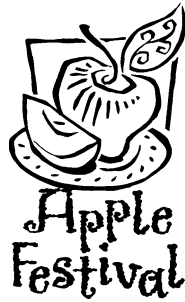
Saturday, October 3, 2015

9 am - 3 pm

Save the date! You're sure to enjoy a bushel of family fun at our annual autumn event!

We are currently accepting table reservations for Vendors, Artists and Crafters. The form may be downloaded from our website,

www.stpaulsdouglassville.com.



The fee is just \$20 for the all-day event; 9 am - 3 pm.

The committee is busy working on new features, including two moonbounces, a giant musical chairs event, and several additional children's activities. We will also be showcasing our new Labyrinth with Walks & Talks. We've added guitarist Dave Cullen, who will perform a set of Beatles songs. Our terrific line-up of entertainment will also include the Boyertown Alumni Band and the Exeter Community Band.

A MESSAGE FROM THE T3 COMMITTEE.....



1 Samuel 2:12-17 *"Now the sons of Eli were scoundrels; they had no regard for the Lord or for the duties of the priests to the people. When anyone offered sacrifice, the priest's servant would come, while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged fork in his hand, and he would thrust it into the pan, or kettle, or cauldron, or pot; all that the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. This is what they did at Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there. Moreover, before the fat was burned, the priest's servant would come and say to the one who was sacrificing, 'Give meat for the priest to roast; for he will not accept boiled meat from you, but only raw.' And if the man said to him, 'Let them burn the fat first, and then take whatever you wish.' He would say, 'No, you must give it now; if not, I will take it by force.' Thus the sin of the young men was very great in the sight of the Lord; for they treated the offerings of the Lord with contempt."*

I know what you are thinking. Could a more obscure passage of Scripture be chosen to consider personal stewardship? Well this passage may be obscure but it is actually quite simple. The sons of Eli held God in contempt and claimed what belonged to God (raw meat with fat on it, -the fat belonging to God) for themselves. The good steward gladly offers to God the things that are God's and rejoice in what is given for us.



Enroll now for preschool

ST. PAUL'S CHRISTIAN PRE-SCHOOL

REGISTRATIONS for the 2015-16 school year have been coming in. The morning class for 3-year-olds is full. There are still some openings in the afternoon class. Three-year-old children must be three by August 31, 2015. There are openings for

4-year-olds in both the morning and afternoon classes. To register, call Sue Kucharik at 610-327-3853.

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: Avery Main, Rhonda Maloney, Alexander Maloney, Ada Marchewski, Karen Marquette, Dylan Marquette, Charles Marquette, Cindy Matosky, Jennifer Matosky, Daryl McCleary, Deanna McCleary, Darby McCleary, Delaney McCleary, Debra McCoy, Lida McManus, David McVey, Ruth McVey, Jay McClafferty, Patricia McClafferty, John Meehan, Kathy Meehan, Donna Meloy, Ann Mengel, Bradley Mengel, and Matthew Mengel. 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: Louise Ruth, Patrick Magner, Robert Geiger, Gene Stewart, Thor Floreen, Mike Lutz, Tom Hafer, Keith Hunter, family and friends of Mary Lou Leeson, Arlen Saylor, Walt Marchewski, Lou Benedict, and all others listed below and those we name in our hearts: Delphine Altland, Dr. Nelson Bailey, Geraldine Barbone, Matthew Barron, Lloyd Beaverson, Sandra Berger, Olivia Blair, Brianna Bocella, Kay Bonslaver, Jeff Brown, Scott Brown, Bryan B., Geri C., Robin C., Tom Campbell, Felix Carr, Michael Carver, John Chambers, Christine & Allen, Shelli Davidheiser, Barbara DePrefontaine, Jack Dilks, Linda Domergue, Marlane Druckenmiller, Matt Edgar, Barbara Esterly, Eileen Estreicher, Cindy Fake, Joanne Ferreri, Joan Fleming, Emily Floreen, Lauren Freeman, Aaron Gabriel, John Gallagher, Sherry Gardner, Michael Giorgio, Ron Glaser, Jeff Godon, Judy Grabowicz, Joan Graefe, Robert Graeff, Ed Guss, Jan Haas, Jamie Harp, June Henninger, Jackie Hurchalla, Geraldine Ingram, Richard Iskowicz, Joe Kasprzewski, Sue Keay, Todd Kelly, Jim Kline, Kurt Kramer, Liane Lefever, Gloria Lutz, Bob Lyon, Lewis M., Ronald McCarragher, Alex Maloney, Jill March, Charles Marquette, Jr., Linda Merkle, June Miller, Laurel Miller, Alexander Moorman, Dan Muldoon, Dennis Myers, Carol Nocera, Richard Pool, Heather Powers, Carole Rhoades, Jocelyn Rice, Lisa Rock, Steven Saylor, Gabriel Schulze, Audrey Serrian, Paula Smith, Susan Smolinsky, Dale Szajek, Hank Thode, Linda Troil, Katie Vassil, Joanie Vernon, Grace Vickers, John Washington, Cindy Weiler, Charlotte Wendel, Lucas Wheeler, Talin Woolstenholine, shut-ins—Alton Brown, Frank Brown, Harold Gross, Gordon Miller, Pearl Miller, Mary Levensgood, Marie Linsenbigler, Helen Oxenford, Gerry Reinert, Laura Schmale.



Note there are Prayer Request Cards in the pew racks.

Happy Birthday!

8/1	Adrienne Sheeler	8/14	Trevor Cicala
8/2	John Heisey	8/15	Alexandra Espinosa
	Susie Kresge		Susan Krystopa
	Payton Yoder		Ellen Sheeler
8/3	Kathy Jablonski	8/16	Kayla Heisey
8/4	Rosalynnda Crichton		Hallie Levensgood
	Madalynne Forster	8/17	Samuel Haring
8/5	Ashley Childs		Madelyn Hicks
	Melissa Kriner	8/18	Rylan Brown
	Zachary Secord		Amber Konarski
	Doug Yocom		Larry Swavely
8/6	Ronald Donachie	8/19	Kevin Forster
	Ann Mengel		Mary Shaner
8/7	Dave Hackett	8/20	Pearl Miller
	Pat Levensgood		Kelly Simmons
8/8	Myla Eisenhard	8/21	Jeane Rohrbach
	Sherry Frey-Brown		Mark Sheeler, Jr.
	Mary A. Levensgood	8/22	Grant Moser
	Aubrey Ridge		Mark Smith
	Erna Vroman	8/23	Tim Schell
8/9	Brian Miller	8/24	Christopher Venn
8/10	Gryffin Cappellano	8/25	Donna Meloy
	Mia DeNardo	8/26	Tyler Bennis
	McKenna Detwiler		Ronald Christman
	Andrew Kresge		Sandi Levensgood
8/11	Anne Cormier	8/27	Mary Levensgood
	Colson Tsakonas		Melissa Woodruff
8/12	Benjamin Garcia	8/28	Connor Reed
	Gary Leister		Henry Rhoads
	Kim Sarro	8/29	Rob Levensgood
8/13	Alyson Hatfield		Jennifer Moyer
	Janice Jancovic		Chase Oesterling
	Karen Lee		Bonnie Steever
8/14	Denise Chroscinski		

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO –

Dave & Janet Levengood	8/3	47 yrs.
Bruce & Pam Cope	8/4	25 yrs.
Dave & Vicki Hiser	8/6	32 yrs.
John & Kay Bonslaver	8/7	50 yrs.
Dean & Marilee Cassidy	8/9	41 yrs.
Charles & Sue Fix	8/9	18 yrs.
Michael & Wendy Hasara	8/12	9 yrs.
Bruce & Janet Musselman	8/12	37 yrs.
Bill & Angie Kutz	8/16	29 yrs.
Eric & Kacey Littman	8/16	1 yr.
Paul & Laurie Muschick	8/17	19 yrs.
Dave & Jan Bause	8/19	54 yrs.
Brian & Amy Hicks	8/19	20 yrs.
Dick & Kathy Wise	8/19	54 yrs.
Ed & Sandra Berger	8/20	21 yrs.
Greg & Susie Kresge	8/20	21 yrs.
Rick & Nancy Centrella	8/21	39 yrs.
Dale & Lisa Kirlin	8/23	29 yrs.
Wayne & Lynn Grace	8/24	41 yrs.
Thomas & Judith Morrow	8/24	45 yrs.
Herb & Darlene Schoenly	8/26	20 yrs.
Jason & Apryll Ware	8/30	8 yrs.



5TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY HYMN SING & SUNDAE PARTY.....

Sunday, August 2 – 3:00 P.M.

Good Shepherd UCC, Boyertown



The afternoon features lots of hymn singing, with songs chosen on-the-spot from those in attendance followed by an ice cream sundae party in the fellowship hall!

Dates to mark on your calendar.....

- Sunday, August 30 @ 9:15 am Orientation meeting for Catechetics
This is a meeting for parents and students in grades 7 -10.
- Sunday, September 13 @ 9:15 am Sunday Church School Rally Day
Come for a carnival of activities set up in the Fellowship Hall.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

AUGUST, 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—Sunday School 7 PM—Nar-Anon</p>	<p>3 8 AM—Pastors breakfast 7 PM—Christian Ed.</p>	<p>4 Quilting 2 PM—TOPS 6:15—Child Dev.</p>	<p>5 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study</p>	<p>6 Noon—Amity Fr. Circle 6 PM—T3 comm.</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1 6 PM—Holy Comm.</p> <hr/> <p>8 8 AM—Men's Gr. 6 PM—Holv Comm.</p>
<p>9 8 & 10:30—Worship 9:15—Sunday School 9:30—Finance Comm. SPLAT after 10:30 7 PM—Nar-Anon</p>	<p>10 10 AM—Labyrinth Gr. 7 PM—Pastoral Care</p>	<p>11 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS</p>	<p>12 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study 6:15—Executive Com 7 PM--Council</p>	<p>13 7 PM—Prayer Shawl</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 7:30 AM--Property 6 PM—Holy Comm.</p>
<p>16 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—Sunday School 9:15—Fall Fest. Mtg. 7 PM—Nar-Anon</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS</p>	<p>19 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study</p>	<p>20 7:30—Crime Watch</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 6 PM—Holy Comm.</p>
<p>23 8 & 10:30—Worship 9:15—Sunday School 7 PM—Nar-Anon</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Quilting 2 PM—TOPS 7 PM—Women's Gr.</p>	<p>26 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study 7 PM—Worship & Music</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 6 PM—Holy Comm.</p>
<p>30 8 & 10:30—Worship 9:15—Sunday School 9:15—Catechetics orientation—Grs. 7-10 7 PM—Nar-Anon</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Council persons in charge of services—Carole Renninger, Karla Rosenbusch Money counters: Carole Renninger, Wayne Grace, Kathy Meehan—8:00 Cindy Matosky, Ray DiSandro, Joe Koury—10:30</p>				