



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

**FEBRUARY, 2015**

In his bestselling book "Outliers," *New Yorker* journalist Malcolm Gladwell explored the often overlooked advantages and underappreciated circumstances which lead to success. Some of these advantages and circumstances are quite outside one's control (like when you are born). But the one consistent factor Gladwell found leading to distinguished accomplishment in business or the arts or athletics was the combination of deliberate practice time with the advantages of good fortune. Gladwell suggests the number of hours needed to become really exceptional at a difficult skill is 10,000. Ten thousand hours of deliberate practice, that is, not just repetition but practice that expands and challenges one's skills. That's a lot of practice.

Lutherans sometimes find themselves in a difficult position when it comes to advocating programs for the deliberate "practicing" of faith. Because we are a reform movement within the church, begun in response to a medieval emphasis on spiritual accomplishments which evolved into works righteousness before God, we have always been suspicious of any spiritual program which may be construed as demanding a certain attainment, skill or proficiency as a requisite for salvation displacing God's grace alone.

But the fact remains, the knowledge of salvation through the grace of God in Jesus Christ is wonderful but doesn't necessarily change our lives unless we integrate the implications of this grace into our thoughts and actions. We do not become proficient at anything, even spiritual things without practice. And our living in the grace of God and faith in

salvation through Jesus Christ must never become a passive endeavor but needs to be lived out and...well...practiced.

With this introduction/disclaimer I want to tell you about our theme for this year's mid-week Lenten worship which will be *Faith Practices*. There are certain distinct aspects of the Christian faith which have been present from the earliest days of the church and are essential to taking up the *life which is life* (1 Timothy 6:19). These practices include: Worship, Prayer, Sacraments, Community, Service, and Giving. We will explore these practices in our mid-week worship and we will share in some opportunities to be involved in the *deliberate practice* of these faith practices throughout the season.

It is my hope that this will be an introduction and emphasis at St. Paul's which will go well beyond the season of Lent. A goal set by the Congregation Council for the coming year is to develop an intentional and deliberate method for engaging the congregation in opportunities for a more deliberate growing and developing of core Christian faith practices, evaluating progress, and supporting one another in becoming better and more proficient in living out our faith each and every day. Our goal is not imagining that our practices ingratiate us to God or position us better to gain God's favor, but rather to live the good life we were created for which is always better when it is defined by a closer relationship with God and one another.

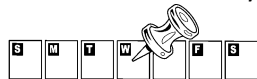
I invite you to join in this emphasis on the core practices of our faith beginning on February 18<sup>th</sup>-- Ash Wednesday. Mid-week services are held each week at 7:00 PM and are preceded by a light supper (community/food is one of the faith practices). After worship a study group, led by Marlane, will meet in the church library to take a closer look at these faith practices.

I look forward to sharing with you in this opportunity to make our faith more tangible and experiential in the coming season of Lent. And I hope that this will mark a new beginning for our church community as we move confidently forward into God's future.

--Pastor Frey

## WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

February 1 8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion  
 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School  
 February 7 6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion  
 February 8 8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship  
 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School  
 February 14 6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion  
 February 15 8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion  
 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School



### Mid-Week WORSHIP SERVICES begin

February 18 11:00 A.M. Ash Wednesday/Holy Communion  
 7:00 P.M. – Ash Wednesday/Holy Communion  
 February 21 6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion  
 February 22 8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship  
 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School  
 February 25 7:00 P.M. – Mid-week Lenten Service  
 February 28 6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion

### FROM THE PARISH RECORDS.....

**Baptism:** -- January 4 --**Piper Evelyn Braun**, daughter of Timothy & Kristin (Gage) Braun

Contributions to the **Memorial Fund** in memory of **Joe Kinder** given by:  
 Gary & Cindy Weidner                      John & Jeane Serrian  
 Larry & Jan Schell

Contribution to the **Renovations Fund** in memory of Joe Kinder given by:  
 Howard & Connie Hunter                      Henry & Gloria Rhoads

Contribution to the **Memorial Fund** in memory of **Tom Schadt** given  
 By Faye Schadt

Contribution to the **Renovations Fund** in memory of **Tom Schadt** given  
 by Dan & Darlene Light.

## A NOTE FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR.....

What gives you joy? Psalm 146:5 says “Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord, their God, . . . “ Do happiness and faith go together. I think so. Faith is having hope and trust in God. Faith is believing. When we believe that we have a God who loves us and wants only the best for us happiness results. We confess that we believe in God the Father...and in Jesus Christ...and in the Holy Spirit. Our statement of belief is a testimony of who we worship. It is also our faith statement.

Psalm 146:6b “who [God] keeps faith forever.” God’s faith in us is an always thing. God’s faith is not a once and done thing. Jesus died and rose again and that’s the end of God’s faithfulness. Our faith recognizes that God continues to be with us forever. Faith in God changes us. Because God loves us we are now free to love others. Our faith shows the world that we are different.

Faith is more than believing. Faith is also the way we do things. We work with God to “execute justice for the oppressed”; “give food to the hungry”; “set the prisoners free”; “open the eyes of the blind”; watch over the strangers, orphans and the widows. Faith moves us to action. How do you practice your faith? May you be caught up in the work of the Lord and enjoy the happiness that such work brings.



11:00 am Service -- Ash Wednesday, February 18 only  
 12 noon-- Soup and bread --Ash Wednesday, **February 18 only**  
 6:00 pm-- Soup and bread (soup makers and bread providers are needed)--every Wednesday during Lent. See the sign-up sheet on the kitchen door.  
 7:00 pm Service  
 8:00 pm Study group looking at various faith practices  
 When we work to learn something be it music, math, dance, etc. the key is practice. So it is with our faith. We will discuss ways we do/can practice faith.

**WOMAN'S GROUP**--Tuesday, February 24 @ 7 pm

Topic to be announced, watch Eblast and the bulletin for details.

**LABYRINTH GROUP** -- Monday, February 9.....

Meet at 10 am depending on weather we will go to Penn State-Berks campus or have indoor activity in Fellowship Hall.

**ADULT FORUM MEETS SUNDAYS AT 9:15 AM IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY**

Topic under discussion: Do we still need the Ten Commandments? We have been taking a deeper look at what each commandment means.



**WORLD HUNGER MESSAGE –**

The holidays are over and most of us are back to our regular routine. The next few months may bring snow and dreary weather. But at least we have a warm house and enough food to feed our families. We do not need to worry if there will be enough food for the next day. Many people in this country live in poverty, as well as other countries around the world. How sad is that? They need our help to get the food they need to survive.

As we look to the coming months let us all remember the less fortunate and contribute to ELCA world hunger so that we can help supply food to many in need. ELCA not only supplies food to the needy; they supply medical care items, clean water, and teach them to be self-sufficient. Establishing a community garden will help all in the area or supplying farming tools and training are only a few things ELCA does for those in need in addition to supplying necessary food.

We can all be part of this help by contributing to ELCA World Hunger by putting whatever we can afford in our weekly envelope marked for WH.

Thank you for your consideration and your past contributions.

--Mary Graefe

**CHECK YOUR EMAIL!**

If you don't think you've been receiving the weekly Eblast and you're certain we have your correct email, be sure to check your "Promotions" or "Spam" or "Junk Mail" folders. Sometimes, the Eblast may end up there – particularly for gmail accounts – even if you've received it with no problems in the past. You can mark the Eblast as "safe" or "not junk."

And if you're not signed up for the Eblast yet, don't forget to give your correct email address to Carole Renninger, Karla Rosenbusch, or Susanne in the office. You can also email your updated address to [Eblast@stpaulsdouglassville.com](mailto:Eblast@stpaulsdouglassville.com).

**CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER HAPPENINGS.....**

Welcome February 2015. Yes, it is still winter. Although, the days are getting longer and each day brings us closer to spring. Will the groundhog see his shadow? This will surely be one of the questions that our teachers and students will be asking. We will be taking a poll in our classrooms to record the predictions. Most of us are hoping for an early spring!



The CDC and Preschool classrooms will also host Valentine's Day parties. The children will practice writing and making valentine's to share with friends. Parents and family members are welcome to join the celebrations and attend the parties.

Just as a reminder, we do have some openings in the CDC and Preschool. For more information, please call or stop by the office. I will be happy to answer any of your questions. As always, we appreciate your support. Thank you.

Sherry Gardner, Director

**NOTES OF THANKS.....**

*Just a note to let you know how honored I felt to win the quilt. It is simply beautiful, and I will enjoy it for years to come.*

*Thank you!!*

*Kate Steward*



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*I'd like to thank the congregation of St. Paul's for the many prayers, cards and calls I, as well as my parents, Harold and Donna Haas, received during my recent surgery. One will never know how much it all is appreciated.*

*Sincerely,*

*Liane Lefever*

**∞OPEN DATES TO SPONSOR THE FLOWERS.....**

Feb. 22            April 5            September 20

March 22        August 9            October 11

Cost is \$34. Call the church office if interested.

**∞OPEN DATES TO SPONSOR THE BULLETINS.....**

April 26            May 25            July 12            October 11

May 17            June 14            August 30        November 29

Cost is \$25. Call the church office if interested.

There may be other opportunities to sponsor the flowers and bulletins.

Other open dates will be published as soon as they are known.

**FEBRUARY 15 IS BLANKET SUNDAY: "WRAPPED IN LOVE" .....**

Your gift of \$5 will be used to purchase special blankets used for a variety of purposes during times of need. New Jersey coastal residents received blankets from Church World Service following Hurricane Sandy. You provided the need. You wrapped those who lost much with a gift of love. It is time to replenish our supply so that we can help the next ones in need.

**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: Heather Hennessey, Ryleigh Hennessey, Michele Hensley, Gregory Hensley, Ashton Hickey, Emelia Hickey, Dana Hickey, Brian Hicks, Amy Hicks, Collin Hicks, Madelyn Hicks, Russell High, Sr., Elizabeth High, Kaitlyn Hilberg, Kevin Hilbert, Barbara Hilbert, Nicholas Hilbert, Kaitlyn Hilbert, Donna Hillman, Arlene Hildebeitel, Ethan Himonitis, David Hiser, and Vicki Hiser.

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: Faye Schadt, Dennis Myers, Ned Butz, June Miller, Lewis M., Alma Shirey, Ed Guss, Laura Schmale, Tom Hafer, Barry & Cindy Meng, Keith Hunter, family and friends of Robert Rainey, and all others listed below and those we name in our hearts: Beverly Albright, Delphine Altland, Geraldine Barbone, Matthew Barron, Deb Beaverson,, Sandra Berger, Olivia Blair, Brianna Bocella, Mary Ann Bohn, Jeff Brown, Scott Brown, Bryan B., Bryan Buss, Geri C., Felix Carr, John Chambers, Sterling Crone, Jason Cutter, Shelli Davidheiser, Jack Dilks, Matt Edgar, Barbara Esterly, John F., Cindy Fake, Joanne Ferreri, Joan Fleming, Wes Freeland, Lauren Freeman, Curt Frey, Aaron Gabriel, Christine Geibel, Ron Glaser, Robert Graeff, Debbie Graff, Stella Greenwald, Vera Guido, Jan Haas, Bobby Ham, Jamie Harp, June Henninger, Marie Hofmockel, Darrin Holsopple, Richard Iskowitz, Dennis K., Brien Kalnoski, Joe Kasprzewski, Sue Keay, Todd Kelly, Elizabeth Kiddy, Jim Kline, Kurt Kramer, Sophia Krause, Liane Lefever, Sandy Leinbach, Kevin Lindauer, Eileen Loose, Gloria Lutz, Ronald McCarraher, Jill March, Mary Jane, Charles Marquette, Jr., Pat Matosky, Linda Merkle, Paul Michalski, Gordon Miller, Laurel Miller, Anna McGeary Perks, Aloma Nagel, Dot Peter, Michael Peterman, Richard Pool, Heather Powers, Joseph Rennock, Emilie Resch, Carole Rhoades, Linda Rinehart, Lisa Rock, Louise Ruth, Charles Saylor, Steven Saylor, Melissa Schubert, Tiffany Schulze, Julea Szilli, Tami Tepe, Hank Thode, Santina Umbach, Katie Vassil, Joanie Vernon, Grace Vickers, Cindy Weiler, Charlotte Wendel, Lucas Wheeler, Amanda Williams, shut-ins—Alton Brown, Frank Brown, Mary Levengood, Marie Linsenbigler, Walt Marchewski, Jake Messner, Helen Oxenford, Gerry Reinert, Grace Weiler.

Note there are Prayer Request Cards in the pew racks.

**FEBRUARY 1 IS SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY.....**

Bring a can of soup to Sunday Church School and Church on this day. The soup will be forwarded to the Amityville Food Pantry. Youth will be stationed at the nave door for your cash donations for Souper Bowl of Caring.



*Happy Birthday*

**DID YOU KNOW . . .**

. . . last year we received \$200 from Michael's Restaurant which is 10% of your purchases? When you pay your bill be sure to say you want your purchase credited to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. You do not have to be a member of the congregation to make this designation.

. . . in 2014 we continue to recycle paper in the yellow and green bin? The providing company has changed so we are not able to report our total tonnage for the year. From January to August we did recycle 17.51 tons. We received cash for our recycling efforts.

. . . \$4,867 was received in 2014 from Thrivent through the Choice Dollars program? . . . we have 137 Thrivent members in our congregation? Thank you to Thrivent for supplementing the activities in our congregation this past year...Community Meal in Birdsboro, Christmas gift drive for Pottstown Head Start, annual Christmas Pie Sale, annual Christmas Attic Corner, and annual Greens Sale.

**SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MEETING—JANUARY 14, 2015.....**

\*Elected the following as officers of the congregation for 2015:

- President: Gary Weidner
- Vice-President: Deb Longstaff
- Financial Secretary: Joe Koury
- Treasurer: Cindy Weidner
- Asst. Treasurer: Brian Hicks
- Secretary: Susanne Leier

\*Approved a motion to combine the surplus from 2013 with the bottom line of 2014 and that 50% of those funds be used to set up a capital fund.

\*Will look into conducting another campaign for renovations

2/1	Lee Hart	2/15	Jennifer Bonetz
	Bradlee Langdon		Beth Gabel
	Abigail Trombley	2/16	Lynn Grace
	Pam Umbenhower	2/17	Carol Berry
2/3	Pastor Frey		Nicholas Chroscinski
	Arlene Hildebeitel		Joanne Guss
	Stephen Royer		Alex Hackett
2/4	Jay McClafferty		Carol Hafer
	Ryan Sonon		Beth Jablonski
2/5	Kyle Berkhammer	2/18	Marcus Betts
2/6	Rachel Lau		Michael Casciano
2/7	Kevin Fisher		Kevin Hilbert
	Jacob Hasara		Magdalena Nygard
	Jay Musselman		Warren Saylor
2/8	Lisa Bowersox	2/19	Norma Godon
	Eugene Buckwalter		Emily Poole
	Mary Graefe	2/20	Shawn Boyd
2/9	Marilee Cassidy		Stuart Crichton
	Ian Oister		Morgan Kelly
	Nathan Shingle	2/21	David Barr
	Gene Stewart		Riley Haring
2/10	Denise Buckwalter		Kristopher Moyer
	Ericka Meyer	2/22	Larry Schell
	Kristin Saylor	2/23	Maeve Bartra
2/11	Audrey Bokosky		Robert Swavely
2/12	Patti Hetzell	2/24	Cindy Dominick
	Deb Overley		Rebecca Miller
	Alma Shirey	2/25	Lori Hoag
2/13	Amanda Childs		Adrienne Stumhofer
	Cameron Hunter	2/26	John Dollhopf
	Mason Monteiro		John Levengood
	Al Suglia	2/27	Alex Maloney
2/14	Sue Childs		Deb Smith
	Lauren Decker	2//28	Palmer Loughin
	Richard Kucharik		Krista Simmons
	John Wolfe		

**HAPPY ANIVERSARY TO –**

Darrell & Margaret Reitmeyer	2/1	40 yrs.
Craig & Diane Guest	2/11	25 yrs.
Elmer & Lisa Porter	2/14	1 yr.
Kevin & Barbara Hilbert	2/15	18 yrs.
Fran & Dorothy Brown	2/17	64 yrs.
Lee & Sandra Hart	2/21	47 yrs.
Ed & Denise Chroscinski	2/22	18 yrs.

**--YTD Giving thru December, 2014 –**

	<u>Jan—Dec. 2013</u>	<u>Jan-Dec. 2014</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>% chg.</u>
Offerings	\$ 384,066	\$ 374,385	\$ -9,681	-2.5
Renov. Contr.	\$ 153,498	119,844	-33,654	-21.9
Total Giving	\$ 537,564	\$ 494,229	-43,335	-8.0
Mortgage Balance		\$1,010,307.27		



**HOCKEY TIME!** The SPYY youth group will be going to see the Reading Royals vs. Florida Everblades on Sunday, Feb. 8th at 5pm, everybody is welcome! Pixar characters will also be making an appearance. Tickets are \$11 and there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Any questions contact

[isarro27@gmail.com](mailto:isarro27@gmail.com)

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE FOLLOWING UPCOMING SPYY EVENTS!**

March 22<sup>nd</sup> 4 pm at church, treasure hunt then pizza afterwards  
 April 12<sup>th</sup> Youth Sunday  
 April 26<sup>th</sup> 2 pm at church, Field Day  
 May – We hope to plan a ride on Colebrookdale Railroad.  
 June 20<sup>th</sup> 12 noon. Pool party & picnic at the Yambor's house

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

# February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1</b> 8 &amp; 10:30-Holy Com 9:15 –Sunday School 7 PM—Nar-Anon</p>	<p><b>2</b> 8 AM—Pastors breakfast 6 PM—Girl Scouts 7 PM—Christian Ed.</p>	<p><b>3</b> Quilting 2 PM—TOPS 6:15—Child Dev.</p>	<p><b>4</b> 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study 6 PM—Girl Scouts</p>	<p><b>5</b> Noon—Amity Fr. Circle 6 PM—T3 Comm. 7 PM—Choir 7 PM—Girl Scouts</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b> 4 PM—Steever wedding 6 PM—Holy Comm.</p>
<p><b>8</b> 8 &amp; 10:30—Worship 9:15—Sunday School 9:30—Finance SPLAT after 10:30 4 PM—Girl Scouts</p>	<p><b>9</b> 10 AM—Labyrinth Gr. 6 PM—Girl Scouts 7 PM—Pastoral Care</p>	<p><b>10</b> Quilting 2 PM--TOPS</p>	<p><b>11</b> 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study 6 PM—Girl Scouts 6:15-Executive Com 7 PM--Council</p>	<p><b>12</b> 7 PM—Choir 7 PM—Prayer Shawl 7 PM—Girl Scouts</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b> 8 AM—Men’s Group 6 PM—Holy Comm.</p>
<p><b>15</b> 8 &amp; 10:30-Holy Com 9:15 –Sunday School Social Ministry after 10:30 4 PM—Girl Scouts 7 PM—Nar-Anon</p>	<p><b>16</b> 6 PM—Bible Study</p>	<p><b>17</b> Quilting 2 PM--TOPS</p>	<p><b>18</b> <i>Ash Wed.</i> 11 AM—Holy Comm Soup &amp; bread follows 6 PM—Girl Scouts 6 PM—Soup &amp; Bread 7 PM—Holy Comm.</p>	<p><b>19</b> 7 PM—Girl Scouts 7:30—Crime Watch</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b> 7:30 AM—Property Committee 6 PM—Holy Comm.</p>
<p><b>22</b> 8 &amp; 10:30—Worship 9:15—Sunday School</p>	<p><b>23</b> 6 PM—Girl Scouts</p>	<p><b>24</b> Quilting 2 PM—TOPS 7 PM—Women’s Gr.</p>	<p><b>25</b> 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study 6 PM—Girl Scouts 6 PM—Soup &amp; bread 7 PM—Mid-week Lenten service</p>	<p><b>26</b> 7 PM—Girl Scouts</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b> 6 PM—Holy Comm.</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>Council persons in charge of services—  Deb Longstaff, Joe Koury</p> </div>						