



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

JULY, 2015

The Wednesday morning Bible study group is 2 chapters deep in the book of Hebrews. (Not a bad time to get in on the study!) This 13 chapter New Testament epistle (letter) is not the source of a lot of memorable quotes but one verse holds a special place in my heart, a framed version having been gifted to me at the time of my ordination. The verse is Hebrews 13:8 *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

On its face it is a straight forward statement. What person of faith could deny this? But if we take serious notice the descriptions and interpretations of Jesus from the earliest days of the church, the Middle Ages, and today we might find cause to disagree with this verse. It seems that Jesus has changed considerably from the first century Jewish rabbi living in poverty, travelling about proclaiming the presence of God's reign in people's lives and raising up disciples to do the same, to the great multiplicity of descriptions applied to Jesus today. Could it be true that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever?

I believe it is. Jesus has not changed, his message has not changed nor has his call to discipleship. But some things do, and in fact must, continually change and that is our perception, understanding and appropriation of Jesus and the character of our own discipleship. Unless we are ready to take up sandals and robe, forsake technology and 2,000 years of acquired knowledge we must admit this is true.

I am amazed at the changes I have witnessed in the church in my time in ministry. We are living in the midst of enormous change which is having a significant impact on the church as an institution and as a spiritual community. These changes are a source of great anxiety and not a little

bewilderment as to what the future may hold. But we would do well to remember that times of momentous change are not a new phenomenon in the church. In fact, there seems to be a period of intense change in the church about every 500 years.

2017 will mark the 500th anniversary of the "official" beginning of the Protestant Reformation commemorating Martin Luther's nailing of the 95 debate theses to the church bulletin board in Wittenberg on October 31st 1517. 500 years before, in 1054 AD, the *Great Schism* between Eastern and Western Christianity occurred when the leaders of the Roman Catholic and the Eastern Catholic Churches (Orthodox) excommunicated one another. 500 years before that Pope Gregory the Great (590-604 AD) cemented the changes begun in the conversion of the Roman emperor Constantine to Christianity about 312 AD.

So you could say the staggering changes we are in the midst of are quite in line with the cycle of momentous change the church has witnessed throughout its history. And while change is always unsettling we should not be afraid. For while our understanding of Jesus develops and grows, and our appropriation and application of his teaching has led in some new directions, we may still confidently believe that Jesus Christ, what he means for us and what he has done for us, is the same yesterday and today and forever. While it is not the most comfortable place to be - smack dab in the midst of significant change - since when has Christianity been first and foremost about being comfortable?

This July marks the 20th anniversary of my ordination and my 15th year as pastor at St Paul's. Where does the time go?

(I want to thank the Church Council for a surprise dinner meeting which was actually a celebration of these anniversaries. The people of St Paul's have always been so very supportive and thoughtful and I am very grateful to all of you who have made these years joyful enough to slip by so rapidly.)

I look forward to the ministry that we, by the grace of God, may carry out together moving forward into the future. And I confidently anticipate our faithfully facing of the challenges inherent in this momentous time. It is in the unity of the community of Christ that Christians throughout the ages have found the courage and confidence

to move boldly into God's new future. So let these words of encouragement from the letter to the Hebrews be a source of strength and stability for us in this world of constant change, *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

--Pastor Frey

WORSHIP IN JULY

July 4	NO 6:00 P.M. SERVICE
July 5	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion 9:15 A.M. – Summer Sunday School
July 11	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
July 12	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship 9:15 A.M. – Summer Sunday School
July 18	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
July 19	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion 9:15 A.M. – Summer Sunday School
July 25	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
July 26	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. –Worship 9:15 A.M. – Summer Sunday School

FROM THE PARISH RECORDS.....

Baptisms: 5/31/15 -- **Chase Kane Saylor**, son of Richard & Kristin Saylor
6/21/15 – **Lucas Ryan Stumhofer**, son of Matthew & Adrienne (Simmons) Stumhofer

Funeral: 5/30/15 – **Rev. Larry V. Schell**



Contribution to the **Memorial Fund** in memory of **Eugene Geiger** given by Jan Schell.

Contribution to the **Renovations Fund** in memory of **Eugene Geiger** given by Warren & Donna Saylor

Contributions to the **Agape Fund:**

- In memory of Larry Schell given by Dave & Janet Levensgood

- In memory of Larry Schell given by June Geiger
- In memory of Larry Schell given by Anna Brown
- In celebration of the baptism of Chase Lane Saylor given by Warren & Donna Saylor
- In celebration of the blessing of the union of Kevin Fisher & Rob Edinger given by Carol Pearson

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

Dale Watkins	Raymond Tinucci
Harold & Donna Haas	Douglas & Cathleen Starkey
Paul & Clara Koch	Dale & Mae Hostetter
Elizabeth Ledig	Marie Hausman
Barry & Carol Gross	Constance Mohr
Carol DeLong	Tom & Pat Collins
Gary & Pat Leister	Janice Bare
Ray & Pat Oxenford	Robert Yanos
Pat Roland	Dick & Edie Randolph
Barbara Keim	Bennett & Michelle Altland
Keith Gross	Bruce & Delphine Altland
Bob & Joan Wendel	Clarence & Joan Bartman
John & Jeane Serrian	Frank & Judy Nikischer
Greg & Norma Godon	Doug & Nancy Yocom
Guy & Marianne Graefe	Edward Arnold
Susanne Walley	Janice Goodman
Walt & Cynthia Kennett	Gloria Lutz & family
Geraldine Weaver	Bill & Rose Stalneckner
Paul & Jane Spohn	J. Robert & Janet Kehrli
Carol Kocher	Phyllis Harwood
Barry & Susanne Leier	Rick & Cindy Weiler
Lorraine Bleiler	Lou & Maureen Benedict
Amity Friendship Circle	Gene & Lynne Braverman
Paul & Kay Reber	Mary Antrim
Bill, Jackie, Brynn & Will Stiles	Jane Kinder
Jim & Judy Trout	Charles & Linda Merkle

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

Charles & Fern Brown	Bob Fisher
Tom & Debbie Longstaff	Arlene Hildebeitel
Dave & Carole Renninger	Rob & Sandi Levensgood

Laine & Deb Kasdras	Cindy Matosky
Fred & Meridith Gaskins	Fay Schadt
Mary Graefe	Henry & Gloria Rhoads
Russ & Betty High	Charles & Anne Weiser
Frank & Kathy Jablonski	Ron & Catherine Wesemann
Ann Mengel	Harvey & Mareta Rhoads
Gerald & Jeane Rohrbach	Helen Strain
Fred & Mary Ellen Hoffert	Clarence & Nancy (Stecker) Walbert
Gary & Cindy Weidner	Jennie Clouser
Frank & Dorothy Brown	Louis & Lucille Schantz
Faith Casciano	Carl & Johanna Adams
Larry & Eileen Swavely	Karen Glaser
Howard & Connie Hunter	Calvin & Ellen Sheeler
Gerald & Pat Levensgood	Russ & Diane Hartline
Sara Hartline	Diane Nolf & Dave McFarland
Richard & Carolyn Miller	Doreen Remp & Terry Brensenger
John & Nati English	Warren & Donna Saylor
JoAnne Merkel	Lynwood & Joan Weil

A NOTE FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR.....

By the time you receive this I will be at home recovering from foot surgery. Six weeks of not driving a car will be frustrating. Having to rely on others to take you places and asking for help carrying things is humbling. I do not like to be dependent on others to do things I have done so long on my own. Some of you may understand what I am talking about and others of you may be the ones who have helped people in such need.



Last evening in Vacation Bible School the story was about four friends who carried their friend to Jesus. When they arrived to a house (packed full like sardines in a can) they got creative and lowered the man down to Jesus through the roof. How embarrassing for the man who was unable to walk on his own. Yet how blessed he must have felt to have friends so willing to help him. You can read the details of this story in Mark 2:1-12. As I heard this story last evening, I could put myself in the place of the unnamed man.

Sunday after worship I spoke with a member of the congregation who has undergone foot surgery and I asked him for any advice to help me through surgery and recovery. He said, "Don't worry, remember to turn it all over to God. God will help with your healing." Of course I knew that, but what powerful words to me at that moment. The story in Mark says that Jesus was moved by their faith. I was so moved by the faith of this member of our congregation. Many have asked how they can help. Granted I will need help but putting our faith into words and practice is how we can help each other every day. Times of illness put us in a state of chaos and uncertainty, but our faith does pull us through. With the help of friends we can be placed in the presence of Jesus in whom we receive salvation.

WOMAN'S GROUP SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

July 28 No meeting
 Aug 25 Silk Scarf Party; cost \$30 for supplies to make and take your own scarf
 check:



www.createyourownsilkscarf.com

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

LABYRINTH GROUP.....

No meeting in July. In August we will check out the progress of Justin Frey's Eagle Scout project. On Monday, August 10, we will look for a cool breeze and some shade at Penn State, Berks Campus labyrinth.



Love INC Meal - We are once again sponsoring the Love INC community meal on July 14th at 6 pm. This year's theme is "A Fiesta Dinner". Food donations and volunteers are needed, see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. All food is to be delivered to the Birdsboro Community Center hot and ready to serve on the day of the event. Contact Jim at jsarro27@gmail.com or 610-310-6150 with any questions.



ADULT FORUM is taking a break for the summer. Some folks said they will gather in the 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 relates to our faith.

Hope you are able to help the members of the Adult Forum with the Hopewell Love INC dinner on July 14 in the Birdsboro Community Center.

--YTD Giving thru May, 2015 --				
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>% chg.</u>
Offerings	\$ 150,403	\$ 148,207	\$ -2,196	-1.5
Renov. Contr.	\$ 37,654	\$ 38,441	787	2.1
Total Giving	\$ 188,057	\$ 186,648	-1,409	-0.75
Mortgage Balance		\$964,451.34		

MARK YOUR CALENDAR.....FALL APPLE FESTIVAL

Our annual church-wide and community event will be held this year **Saturday, October 3**; please save the date!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS WHO RECEIVED AWARDS AT COMMENCEMENT:



Scholarships Awarded

- Ashleigh Weidner**, Thomas H. Gerstley Memorial Award
- Jordan Koury**, Daniel Boone Music Boosters Award
- Kayla Heisey**, Daniel Boone Youth Education Assn. Award
- Colin Mooney**, Daniel Boone Ecology Club Award

A MESSAGE FROM THE T3 COMMITTEE.....



Galatians 2:7, 9-10 *“On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel for the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel for the circumcised and when James and Cephas and John, who were acknowledged pillars, recognized the grace that had been given to me, they gave to Barnabas and me the right hand of fellowship, agreeing that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. They asked only one thing, that we remember the poor, which was actually what I was eager to do.”* “Turf Issues” often plague human interactions especially in work places and volunteer organizations like churches. This section of Galatians is a classic “Turf Issue” conflict in the early church. Several of the disciples thought they had been given a special authority and mandate which was also claimed by others. Eventually, the disciples and Paul realized that God had given a special authority and mandate to all, to proclaim the Gospel. Paul and the disciples, at first, acted as though such mandates and authority were scarce but eventually they discovered that God has an abundance of power which is given to us to proclaim the Gospel and make disciples.

BLOOD DRIVE—Wednesday, July 15, 3:00—7:00 P.M at Daniel Boone Middle School. To register call Rhonda Maloney at 610-213-3085 or go to www.GIVEaPINT.org and use the code #2050.

SPIRITWEAR MISPELLING

Our SpiritWear order was printed with the incorrect spelling of “Lutheran.” This was the error by the print shop. They have agreed to re-print our order. New shirts will arrive within a few weeks. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Thank You, The Fellowship Committee





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sunday, June 14 - Thursday, June 18

G-Force: God's Love in Action

Thank you to all the leaders, preparers of food, parents, and students who helped with another successful year of Vacation Bible School. We had 26 children with 28-40 youth and adult leaders. The place was hopping with music, story, games, crafts, science, and snacks related to our theme. Dinner was served each night to 38-50 people. The offering of \$65.64 will be forwarded to Love INC.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER NEWS.....

Summer is finally here! The children have been enjoying the warmer temperatures while participating in exciting outside activities. The younger children had fun playing in the water on Sprinkler Day. Of course, the older children are looking forward to going to the pool each week.

To enhance this year's theme "G-force: Life in Action", all of the children participated in a high energy, fun-filled day of movement under the direction of Lil' Sports. In addition, the children will continue to expand the theme by exploring ways to act, care and show kindness toward other people and animals. We will be welcoming special guests and visitors throughout the month as well. The children will have a field trip to visit Keystone Villa to participate in activities and visit with the residents for a day of sharing and caring.

We will celebrate our accomplishments and recognize the Fourth of July with festive activities and a picnic lunch. As a reminder, the Center will be closed on Friday, July 3, 2015.



Have a safe holiday and thank you for your continued support.

Sherry Gardner, Director

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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: John Levengood, Mary Levengood, Robin Levengood, Sandra Levengood, Hallie Levengood, Ryan Levengood, Tami Levengood, Daniel Light, Darlene Light, Marie Linsenbigler, Kacey Littman, Carter Longstaff, Tom Longstaff, Debbie Longstaff, Palmer Loughin, Robert Lovell, Patricia Lovell, Christopher Lynagh, Chris Lynagh, Thomas Lynagh, Mary Lynagh, Jerry MacMullin, Jennifer MacMullin, Nicole MacMullin, Patrick Magner, and Tricia Magner. 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: Walt Marchewski, Beverly Albright and baby McKinley, Talin Woolstenholine, Lou Benedict, Ed Guss, Tom Hafer, Keith Hunter, family and friends of Wes Freeland, and all others listed below and those we name in our hearts: Delphine Altland, Dr. Nelson Bailey, Geraldine Barbone, Matthew Barron, Deb Beaverson, Sandra Berger, Olivia Blair, Brianna Bocella, Kay Bonslaver, Jeff Brown, Scott Brown, Bryan Buss, Bryan B., Geri C., Robin C., Tom Campbell, Felix Carr, Michael Carver, John Chambers, Christine & Allen, Shelli Davidheiser, Barbara DePrefontaine, Jack Dilks, Linda Domergue, 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, Stella Greenwald, Jan Haas, Jamie Harp, June Henninger, Jackie Hurchalla, Geraldine Ingram, Richard Iskowitz, Joe Kasprzewski, Sue Keay, Todd Kelly, Jim Kline, Kurt Kramer, Sophia Krause, Mary Lou Leeson, Liane Lefever, Sandy Leinbach, Gloria Lutz, Bob Lyon, Lewis M., Ronald McCarraher, Alex Maloney, Jill March, Charles Marquette, Jr., Linda Merkle, June Miller, Laurel Miller, Alexander Moorman, Dan Muldoon, Dennis Myers, Carol Nocera, Dot Peter, Richard Pool, Heather Powers, Carole Rhoades, Jocelyn Rice, Lisa Rock, Steven Saylor, Melissa Schubert, Gabriel Schulze, Audrey Serrian, Alma Shirey, Paula Smith, Susan Smolinsky, Dale Szajek, Hank Thode, Linda Troil, Katie Vassil, Joanie Vernon, Grace Vickers, John Washington, Cindy Weiler, Charlotte Wendel, Lucas Wheeler, shut-ins—Alton Brown, Frank Brown, Harold Gross, Gordon Miller, Pearl Miller, Mary Levengood, Marie Linsenbigler, Helen Oxenford, Gerry Reinert, Laura Schmale.

Note there are Prayer Request Cards in the pew racks.



7/1	Denise Millard	7/16	Harold Haas
7/2	Keely Woodruff	7/17	Janice Miller
7/3	Chris Brown	7/18	Jordan Koury
	Bruce Musselman		Emily Ridge
7/4	Tyler Cloutier	7/19	Ed Berger
	Hunter Konarski		Franklin Brown
7/5	Ed Chroscinski		Lorrie Monroe
7/7	Tammy Swavely	7/20	Kris Poole
7/8	Ashley Bonetz	7/21	Jan Haas
	Susan Kubovsak	7/22	Pat Oxenford
	Judi Simmons		Marley Yambor
	Rylee Soto	7/23	Stella Boyd
7/9	Todd DePrefontaine	7/24	Courtney Gougler
7/10	Kim Koury	7/25	Kim Sheeler
	Cindy Matosky	7/26	Taryn Myers
	Lynwood Weil		Kyle Vonderlinden
7/11	Russ High	7/27	Charles Burns, Jr.
7/12	Allen Hetzell		Felisha Kirilin
7/13	Tiana Gallagher	7/28	Zachary Gougler
	Matthew Szajek		Nicholas Hilbert
7/14	David Bennis		Sue Prizer
	Frank Brown, Jr.	7/29	Geraldine Glutz
	Connie Hunter		Ed Guss
7/15	Bruce Monteiro		Carlene Yerger
	Mason Rotelli	7/30	Victoria Bennis

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO—

James & Susan Kubovsak	7/1	19 yrs.
David & Victoria Bennis	7/3	11 yrs.
Tatum & Kris Poole	7/3	11 yrs.
Russ & Diane Hartline	7/5	18 yrs.
Dave & Daniele Walt	7/5	18 yrs.
John & Karen Lee	7/6	30 yrs.
John & Emily Levengood	7/10	11 yrs.

David & Lindsey Yoder	7/10	5 yrs.
Bill & Rose Stalnecker	7/11	45 yrs.
Art & Christine Yerger	7/11	10 yrs.
Stuart & Rosa Crichton	7/14	8 yrs.
Patrick & Melissa Woodruff	7/17	22 yrs.
Duane & Cindy Dominick	7/18	34 yrs.
Nick & Heather Freitag	7/18	6 yrs.
Gene & Nancy Stewart	7/18	15 yrs.
Albert & Brigitte Northrup	7/19	12 yrs.
Pr. Greg & Wendy Frey	7/24	22 yrs.
Joel & Bonnie Steever	7/24	44 yrs.
Darvin & Mary Levengood	7/25	56 yrs.

SPLAT (St. Paul's Lutheran Active Teens) July monthly meeting will be on Sunday, July 12, after the 10:30 A.M. service. We will have lunch and then bake cookies for the Love INC dinner to be held later that week. Bring one or two batches mixed up of your favorite cookies and we will bake them to help feed those less fortunate right in our community. Let Cindy Matosky (cmatosky105@gmail.com) know whether or not you can make this meeting.



Thanks from the Schell family -- *We have felt such overwhelming love and support from the congregation during Larry's illness and subsequent passing. From the many, many cards with personal messages of help, encouragement and support Larry had given them during his ministry, comments expressed to us at church or on the telephone, offers of help and to the beautiful planter from the congregation. Our family is most appreciative and so glad we can call St. Paul's our church family. The Memorial service was a perfect tribute to Larry, just as he would have wanted. Thank you all so very much.*

Jan, Tim and Cindy, Steve and Brooke

LABYRINTH- JUSTIN FREY'S EAGLE PROJECT.....

As my Eagle Scout project for Troop #597 I am organizing the building of a Labyrinth at St Paul's. For quite a few years the church has had a group which makes monthly trips to churches and other sites which have labyrinths to participate in the prayerful and contemplative discipline of this ancient spiritual practice.

A work day to lay out the Labyrinth will take place on July 11th beginning at 8:00 AM. The main tasks will involve laying out the brick on the Labyrinth pattern and filling in with small river stones. I am looking for people from the congregation to help with this project. We will work on the Labyrinth throughout the day on July 11th but any time you could contribute would be helpful and appreciated. If you have a wheel barrow and shovels, they would also help. There will be a signup sheet at the church or you can email me at jdfrey121@gmail.com. Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

THANKS FOR OUR DONATIONS TO ASSEMBLE PERSONAL CARE KITS.....

61 Personal Care kits and 1 box of soap were delivered to New Windsor Service Center. They will be distributed to disaster victims as needed.

Richard & Rita Christman announce the graduation of their granddaughter, Alicia Dickenson, from Daniel Boone High School. Next stop is Penn State Altoona.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Council persons in charge—Deb Longstaff, Michele Fisher Money counters: Deb & Tom Longstaff, Frank Jablonski—8:00 Michele Fisher, Nati English, Arlene Hildebeitel—10:30 </div>			1	2 6 PM—T3 Committee	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i> <u>NO 6 PM SERVICE</u>
5 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—Sunday School 7 PM—Nar-Anon	6 8 AM—Pastors breakfast	7 Quilting 2 PM—TOPS 6:15—Child Dev.	8 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study	9 7 PM—Prayer Shawl	10	11 8 AM—Men's Group Labyrinth Work 6 PM—Holy Comm.
12 8 & 10:30—Worship 9:15—Sunday School 7 PM—Nar-Anon	13 7 PM—Pastoral Care	14 Quilting 2 PM—TOPS Love INC meal	15 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study 3—7 PM—Blood Dr. at DBMS	16 7:30 PM—Crime Watch	17	18 6 PM—Holy Comm.
19 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—Sunday School 7 PM—Nar-Anon	20	21 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS	22 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study	23	24	25 6 PM—Holy Comm.
26 8 & 10:30—Worship 9:15—Sunday School 7 PM—Nar-Anon	27	28 Quilting 2 PM—TOPS	29 9 AM—Prayer Gr.	30	31	

