

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

**MAY, 2015**

**CANCER.** It may be the most frightening word in the English language. Some people cannot bring themselves to say the word at all. There is virtually no one who has not had a close friend or relative struggle with this disease and the fear of it accompanies, to some degree in our minds, every test the doctor orders.

When my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer in the early 1980's there still was not very much that could be done for the disease. Radical mastectomy...lymph nodes...muscle tissue...they took it all back then. Then came the chemo; broad spectrum like carpet bombing, lots of side effects, few comfort measures. They chased that cancer around her body for 12 years. At her funeral in 1996 the minister said in the sermon that we might be glad mom's suffering was at an end, and we were.

Perhaps it is my personal experiences with cancer that have kept me from formulating an explanation of God's relationship to the disease which I might find satisfactory. I am often called on for counsel concerning just why God would allow someone to suffer with this disease. It is some of the most truly significant ministry work that I do. Yet each time the conversation begins and leads to the question, "Why would God allow this to happen?" I find myself staring blankly while three words clearly appear in my mind, "I don't know."

Eventually the conversation shifts toward punishment- I'm glad for the shift-this I am pretty clear on. "No, God doesn't punish people by giving them cancer." Nor is God testing us. I simply do not find it credible, or consistent with the message and meaning of Jesus, that God would carry on that kind of activity among us. It's the Bible that says, "*If God marks iniquity...who could stand!*" (Psalm 130) But just why it exists and

what purpose it serves I honestly cannot say. Perhaps it really is just a consequence of the good yet broken creation we live in.

What I have discovered is that while I cannot quite put my finger on God's precise relationship to the disease (or any natural disaster for that matter) I have stood in awe of God's activity in the midst of it. Some of the most inspiring experiences I have had witnessing the activity of God's Holy Spirit in the world have come through my encounter with the love and community formed in response to the needs of a loved one, a neighbor, a coworker, a church member dealing with cancer. While I have great trouble seeing God as actively complicit in conspiring to inflict disease and misfortune on people, I am absolutely convinced that God is active supplying the resources we need to face misfortune and nurture hope.

One way this happens is through the development to new and better ways to approach cancer. From prevention to detection to treatment, all areas of dealing with the disease have improved dramatically over the last 30 years. But there is also a long way to go.

Every year since 2008 the students and faculty of Daniel Boone School District have held a *Relay for Life* event in May to benefit the American Cancer Society. The great thing about this event in our schools is the degree to which students (a lot of students) are involved in planning, directing and carrying out activities to promote and raise money for cancer research. The students learn valuable leadership skills, they are joined to empathetic service, and they raise a significant amount of money for a very important cause. This feels to me like the gracious activity of God.

This year the Daniel Boone *Relay for Life* will be on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Our church will participate by observing a Luminaria Sunday on May 10<sup>th</sup>. For a \$10 donation you can dedicate a luminaria in honor, memory, or support of a loved one who has been affected by cancer. Luminarias are plain, white bags that can be decorated and personalized in the weeks between now and May 10<sup>th</sup>. On May 10<sup>th</sup> we will display the luminaria and lift up a special prayer petition to God on behalf of all affected by cancer. The Luminaria bags will then be collected and taken to the Daniel Boone *Relay for Life* where they will be lit on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Please take a moment to fill out an official Luminaria Order Form. Checks

should be made out to the American Cancer Society. Bags will be available if you wish to personalize them.

For now, cancer remains a scary word, but we do not need to live in fear of it. It is not God's instrument of punishment or correction but that does not mean God is not active in the midst of it. God is present in the loving Christ who shows us how to love and support one another in all of life's circumstances. May we all experience the love of God in Jesus Christ and share that love in what we say and do. And may we answer the question, "Where is God?" with the affirmation that God is present and active in the consolation we share in the name of Christ.

--Pastor Frey

WORSHIP IN MAY, 2015

May 2	6:00 P.M. -- Holy Communion
May 3	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School
May 9	6:00 P.M. -- Holy Communion
May 10	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School
May 16	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
May 17	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School
May 23	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
May 24	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School
May 30	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
May 31	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School

**FROM THE PARISH RECORDS:**

**Funerals:** March 26: **Eugene Charles Geiger**  
March 28: **Grace Elizabeth (Boyer) Weiler**

**Blessing of Union:** April 11: **Rob Edinger & Kevin Fisher**

**Contributions to the Renovations Fund in memory of Eugene Geiger given by:**

Charles & Fern Brown	Barry & Vicci Eidell
Dale Watkins	Paul & Lynn Eschbach
Larry & Eileen Swavely	Margaret Broadhead
Ann Mengel	Gloria Senchak
Gerald & Jeane Rohrbach	David & Diane Wehr
Pat Roland	Ronald & Gloria LaScala
Gary & Cindy Weidner	Clifford & Barbara Keller
John & Jeane Serrian	Calvin & Ellen Sheeler
Mary Graefe	Gerald & Pat Levengood
Russ & Betty High	Gene & Denise Buckwalter
Robert & Leatrice Hetrick	Amity Friendship Circle

**Contribution to the Agape Fund in memory of Eugene Geiger given by**  
Anna Brown

**Contributions to the Agape Fund in memory of Grace Weiler given by:**

Fred & Mary Ellen Hoffert	Anna Brown
John & Jeane Serrian	Linda & Kenneth Domergue
Harold & Ann Price	Frank & Dorothy Brown
David & Joyce Boyer	Rick & Cindy Weiler
Nancy Weiler	Gerald & Pat Levengood
Faye Schadt	Barbara Keim
Timothy & Susan Moll	Gene & Denise Buckwalter
Martin & Patricia Radiosky	

**Contribution to the Agape Fund to honor the blessing of the union of Kevin Fisher and Rob Edinger given by Greg & Norma Godon.**

**Contribution to the Memorial Fund in memory of Joe Kinder by Dale Watkins.**

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

*"In God we live, move and have our being..." - Acts 17:28a*  
Two things foremost in my mind (besides counting the days to continuing education in Ireland) has been the Vacation Bible School theme and a recent conversation at Theology with a Twist event.

From the Acts quote we acknowledge being a Christian means God is a part of how we live and who we are. We are defined by our actions. We are a part of the G-Force (God's Force). We have power to do many things. Vacation Bible School children and summer Child Development Center children will be exploring ways we move, act, care, follow, and share. I have taken the VBS material and expanded it into weekly themes for the entire summer. CDC children will be moving, acting, caring, following, and sharing through a variety of activities and visitors. While the Bible stories will not be the main stories told, the concepts of the stories studied in VBS will be the focus for the summer.

We are like super heroes using the force God has given to us. We live to model God's love. God is not a stagnant being who created things and then rested for the remainder of existence. When we put our minds and bodies into motion we become God's love to our neighbor, in creation, and in the world.

At the Theology with a Twist event our leader, the Rev. Dr. Deborah Appler, from Moravian Seminary had us taking a look at the Garden of Eden from Genesis. We were challenged to listen to the story from the perspective of an animal, or a rock, or some other part of creation. What was it that was so appealing in that Garden? Was it a bad thing to leave the Garden? Do we accept responsibility assigned to us in the creation story to have dominion over the earth or to be "creation keepers."

A major question discussed was "What does it mean for us to live today in the garden of Eden now?" Looking back at the VBS theme, I believe we were given the G-force back in the Garden. We were given responsibility to enjoy, care, share, move, and live a pleasurable life in the Garden (we call Earth). We are like super heroes when we take charge and help each other.

How can you be like a super hero using the G-Force?

**LABYRINTH GROUP** -- Monday, May 11.....  
Meet at 10 am. Depending on weather we will go to Shenkel's UCC labyrinth or have indoor activity in Fellowship Hall.

## **WOMEN'S GROUP**

No Women's Group meeting in May.

June 23 Randy VanFleet; Amity Township History; offering will be taken

July 28 No meeting

Aug 25 Silk Scarf Party; cost \$30 for supplies to make and take your own scarf check: [www.createyourownsilkscarf.com](http://www.createyourownsilkscarf.com)

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

**ADULT FORUM** meets Sundays at 9:15 am in the Church Library.  
Topics for May to be determined.

**BASKET SOCIAL** -- Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 pm.....  
25 tickets for \$5.00

The baskets have started to come in. Kathy Jablonski is using the Thrivent Action Team \$250 grant to create some special baskets and supplemental snacks.

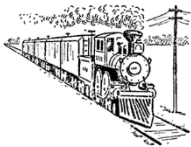


What will you put in your basket? How creative can you get with a themed basket? (check Pinterest for ideas) What business can you ask to donate a basket? Can you make a dessert for the evening break? Can you sell some tickets?

There are so many more ways you can help.

**GRADUATING THIS YEAR??** We will be publishing a list of our graduates from high school or institutions of higher learning. Please call the church office with the name of the graduate in your family.





**COLEBROOKDALE RAILROAD TRAIN RIDE**

Sunday, May 17 – 3:30 P.M. We have reserved a coach with a limit of 80 passengers. \$20.00 adults; \$14 students, under age 2 is free.

Sign up in the narthex. Payment may be included in your offering envelope. Passengers should arrive 15 minutes early to check in at ticket booth and tell them you are with St. Paul’s. The rail yard is at the intersection of 3rd & Washington Sts. Parking is available. Tickets are still available so spread the word.

**WE’RE DECORATING WITH RED GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST.....**

On Pentecost, May 24, we will be decorating the sanctuary with red geraniums. An order form is printed below if you care to place an order. Cost is \$4.00 per plant. You may take the geraniums along with you following the 10:30 service or leave them to be planted around the church building.



**NO GERANIUMS MAY BE TAKEN BEFORE THE 10:30 SERVICE.**

Yes, I/We would like to order \_\_\_\_red geraniums @ \$4.00 per plant.  
Amount Due \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_I/We will be taking the geraniums **following the 10:30 service.**  
\_\_\_\_I/We will be leaving the geraniums to be planted in the church beds.

Information for the bulletin: Given to the glory of God—

\_\_\_\_In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_As a gift by \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline to order is Sunday, May 17.

**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 Hailey Krichten, Riley Krichten, Melissa Kriner, Alexander Kriner, James Kriner, Jeffrey Krystopa, Susan Krystopa, Jeffrey Krystopa, Gabrielle Krystopa, Daniel Krystopa, Susan Kubovsak, Richard Kucharik, Susan Kucharik, Rebecca Kucharik, Jessica Kucharik, Gerald Kupp, Suzanne Kupp, Brian Kupp, Breylan Kupp, Colton Kupp, Michele Kutsch, Paul Kutsch, Kurt Kutsch, Bill Kutz, Angelina Kutz, Benjamin Kutz, Ashley Kutz, Alexander Kutz. 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: Jocelyn Rice, Gabriel Schulze, Pearl Miller, Vera Guido, Carolyn DiNati, John Washington, Audrey Serrian, Faye Schadt, Dale Szajek, Pr. Larry Schell, Tom Hafer, Keith Hunter, 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, Jeff Brown, Scott Brown, Michael Burd, Bryan Buss, Bryan B., Geri C., Robin C., Tom Campbell, Felix Carr, Michael Carver, John Chambers, Christine & Allen, Sterling Crone, Shelli Davidheiser, Barbara DePrefontaine, Tony DiCarlis, Jack Dilks, Duane Dominick, Matt Edgar, Barbara Esterly, Cindy Fake, Joanne Ferreri, Joan Fleming, Wes Freeland, Lauren Freeman, Aaron Gabriel, John Gallagher, Michael Giorgio, Ron Glaser, Robert Graeff, Stella Greenwald, Ed Guss, Jan Haas, Bobby Ham, Lyn Hansford, Jamie Harp, June Henninger, Geraldine Ingram, Richard Iskowitz, Judy, Joe Kasprzewski, Sue Keay, Todd Kelly, Jim Kline, Kurt Kramer, Sophia Krause, Mary Lou Leeson, Liane Lefever, Sandy Leinbach, Kevin Lindauer, Eileen Loose, Gloria Lutz, Ronald McCarraher, Jill March, Charles Marquette, Jr., Linda Merkle, June Miller, Laurel Miller, Holly Mount, Dan Muldoon, Dennis Myers, Carol Nocera, Dot Peter, Richard Pool, Heather Powers, Carole Rhoades, Lisa Rock, Steven Saylor, Melissa Schubert, Tiffany Schulze, Alma Shirey, Paula Smith, Hank Thode, Katie Vassil, Joanie Vernon, Grace Vickers, Cindy Weiler, Charlotte Wendel, Lucas Wheeler, Amanda Williams, Pr. Rich Zuber, shut-ins—Alton Brown, Frank Brown, Gordon Miller, Pearl Miller, Mary Levensgood, Marie Linsenbigler, Walt Marchewski, Jake Messner, Helen Oxenford, Gerry Reinert, Laura Schmale.

Note there are Prayer Request Cards in the pew racks.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL.....**

Sunday, June 14 - Thursday, June 18  
 G-Force: God's Love in Action

5:30 pm Dinner (Sunday is covered dish, salad bar offered nightly, other evening menus have not yet been determined)

6:00 - 8:00 pm music, story, science, snack, crafts, and games areas

for ages 3 - grade 5 (older youth are needed to be helpers)  
 Special offering will be taken for LOVE, In the Name of Christ a local social ministry supporting persons in need.

**SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MEETING—APRIL 8, 2015.....**

- Learned of staffing issues in the Child Development Center. The committee recommended the hiring of Ariel Hansley.
- Reviewed a rough draft of emergency procedures. This will be posted in the Fellowship Hall and by the AED.
- Approved Frank & Kathy Jablonski as our voting members to the Synod Assembly.

**Open date to sponsor the flowers:** September 20. Cost is \$34. Call the church office if interested.

**Open dates to sponsor the bulletin** – May 25, June 14, July 12, August 30. Cost is \$25. Call the church office if interested.

5/1	Brittany Cloutier Calla Eisenhard Sherry Rhoads James Trout Christine Yerger	5/15	Carl Yerger
		5/17	Rich Bowersox Heather Hennessey Patricia Lovell Drew Musselman
5/2	Brian Hicks Janet Musselman	5/19	Marianne Graefe Zachary Hasara Linda Heisey Howard Hunter Ashley Kutz Tim Simmons
5/3	Tiffany Cappellano Alexander Crichton Darlene Light Robert Lovell		
5/4	Lily Dougherty Kayleigh Johnson Kurt Kutsch	5/20	Betty Brumbach Donna Haas
5/5	Diane Davis Delaney McCleary Tatum Poole	5/21	Seth Szajek
		5/22	Russell Burns Nathaniel Crichton Riley Krichten
5/6	Katlyn Hilbert	5/23	Apryll Ware
5/7	Judith Gross Lucas Gross Ronald Rhoads	5/24	John Bologa Jennifer Matosky
5/8	Bailey Heisey Darrell Reitmeyer	5/25	Collin Hicks Carter Longstaff
5/9	Reese Muschick	5/26	Jan Bause Chris Jenkins
5/10	Albert Northrup Mark Sheeler, Sr.	5/28	Eric Bologa Baylee Dominick Rachel Dragon Sieglinde Fretz Laine Kasdras
5/11	Ryan Bologa Linda Kiak Andrew Weiler		
5/12	William Gleeson Danica Hershey	5/29	Matt Mengel
5/15	Brigitte Northrup Joshua Secord Katherine Trout	5/30	Marsha Springel Dale Szajek
		5/31	Harlan Swavely Scott Walley

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO --**

Tim & Bonnie Simmons	5/3	35 yrs.
Ray & Pat Oxenford	5/5	53 yrs.
Charles & Anne Weiser	5/9	45 yrs.
Fred & Mary Hoffert	5/11	47 yrs.
Andy & Kelly Mooney	5/11	24 yrs.
Larry & Eileen Swavely	5/14	60 yrs.
David & Deb Smith	5/16	11 yrs.
James & Renee Waring	5/16	8 yrs.
Gene & Denise Buckwalter	5/19	42 yrs.
Ralph & Robin Rohrbach	5/19	31 yrs.
Richard & Diane Saylor	5/19	31 yrs.
Richard & Debbie Konarski	5/21	21 yrs.
Jim & Kim Sarro	5/21	21 yrs.
Barry & Carol Gross	5/22	44 yrs.
Jim & Judy Trout	5/22	47 yrs.
Nathan & Elizabeth Haring	5/24	11 yrs.
Keith & April Royer	5/24	29 yrs.
Charles & Joyce Drey	5/27	54 yrs.
Matthew & Holly Zajac	5/27	14 yrs.

**DID YOU KNOW . . .**

...Kathy and Frank Jablonski will be our voting members to the Northeastern PA Synod Assembly Friday, May 29 & Saturday, May 30? Bishop Zeiser is challenging Lutherans to be unleashed for several special events.

**--YTD Giving thru March, 2015 --**

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>% chg.</u>
Offerings	\$ 88,430	\$ 88,155	\$ -275	-0.3
Renov. Contr.	\$ 21,772	18,957	-2,815	-12.9
Total Giving	\$ 110,202	\$107,112	- 3,090	-2.8

Mortgage Balance \$982,894.93

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Council persons in charge of services—Jeff Duplak, Ray DiSandro</p> <p>Money counters: Carole Renninger, Kathy Meehan, Wayne Grace – 8:00 Ray DiSandro, Cindy Matosky, Joanne Guss – 10:30</p>					<p><b>1</b> 7 PM—Basket Social</p>	<p><b>2</b> 6 PM—Holy Comm.</p>
<p><b>3</b> 8 &amp; 10:30—Holy com 9:15—Sunday School 7 PM—Nar-Anon</p>	<p><b>4</b> 8 AM—Pastors breakfast 6 PM—Girl Scouts 7 PM—Christian Ed.</p>	<p><b>5</b> Quilting 2 PM-TOPS 6:15—Child Dev.</p>	<p><b>6</b> 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study 6 PM—Girl Scouts</p>	<p><b>7</b> Noon—Fr. Circle 6 PM—T3 Comm. 7 PM—Choir 7 PM—Girl Scouts</p>	<p><b>8</b> Bus driver breakfast</p>	<p><b>9</b> 8 AM—Men's Group 6 PM—Holy Comm.</p>
<p><b>10</b> 8 &amp; 10:30—Worship 9:15 —Sunday School 9:30—Finance SPLAT after 10:30 7 PM—Nar-Anon</p>	<p><b>11</b> 10 AM—Labyrinth Gr. 7 PM—Pastoral Care</p>	<p><b>12</b> Quilting 2 PM-TOPS</p>	<p><b>13</b> 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study 6 PM—Girl Scouts 6:15—Executive Com 7 PM--Council</p>	<p><b>14</b> 7 PM—Choir 7 PM—Prayer Shawl 7 PM—Girl Scouts</p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b> 7:30 AM--Property 6 PM—Holy Comm.</p>
<p><b>17</b> 8 &amp; 10:30—Holy com 9:15—Sunday School Social Ministry after 10:30 3:30—Train ride 4 PM—Girl Scouts 5:30—Nar-Anon</p>	<p><b>18</b> 6 PM—Bible Study 6 PM—Girl Scouts</p>	<p><b>19</b> Quilting 2 PM-TOPS</p>	<p><b>20</b> 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study 6 PM—Girl Scouts 7 PM—Pre-School graduation</p>	<p><b>21</b> 7 PM—Choir 7 PM—Girl Scouts 7:30—Crime Watch</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b> 6 PM—Holy Comm.</p>
<p><b>24</b> 8 &amp; 10:30—Holy com 9:15 —Sunday School</p> <hr/> <p><b>31</b> 8 &amp; 10:30—Worship 9:15 —Sunday School 2 PM—Flute recital</p>	<p><b>25</b> <i>Memorial Day observed.</i></p>	<p><b>26</b> Quilting 2 PM-TOPS 7 PM—Women's Gr.</p>	<p><b>27</b> 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study 6 PM—Girl Scouts 7 PM—Worship &amp; Music</p>	<p><b>28</b> 4—7 PM— Flute rehearsal 7 PM—Girl Scouts</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> 6 PM—Holy Comm.</p>

