

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

**JANUARY, 2016**

I eat every day and never seem to tire of it. In fact, I eat several times a day and would eat more if I thought I could get away with it. My body lets me know, in no uncertain terms, if I delay too long on satisfying my appetite.

In a section of Matthew's Gospel called the *Sermon on the Mount* Jesus issues a series of pronouncements of blessings. In the blessings Jesus invites his hearers to reimagine what is important in their lives and discover what life conditions and practices allow (or at least don't inhibit) that person to be close to God. One of these famous *Beatitudes* states, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied." (Matthew 5:6)

Righteousness is not quite the best word anymore because our minds go almost immediately to self-righteousness, but what Jesus is referring to is a life lived in close proximity to God. Being close to God and feeling close to God are as straightforward as mindfulness. Out of sight out of mind, the old saying goes, but we might also say of God, out of mind out of heart.

Just as our earthly bodies need food every day and let us know if we're not getting what we need, so our spiritual lives need nourishment and let us know if we are not receiving it. Symptoms of this spiritual hunger may include: the dislocated sadness that comes about when we question our purpose, the inability to make sense of the things going on in our lives, and the undercurrent of fear which seems to color everything around us.

Just as bodily hunger is cured through eating, our spiritual hunger can only find satisfaction in the mindful practices of listening for God's Word and connecting to God's story through meditation and prayer.

Some in our congregation have long been in a regular rhythm of such practices. But for others there may be uncertainty concerning how to start, or even more commonly, how to keep up the regular practice of attending to the spiritual need.

Beginning in the New Year we are encouraging people who are experiencing this spiritual hunger to join together around the practice of daily Scripture reading and prayer. To this purpose we have a resource which we will make available to anyone who wants it. It is called "Bread for the Day" and it contains a brief daily reading from Scripture and a prayer.

Many people commence spiritual practices with good intentions but with time the enthusiasm wears away and the practices cease. This is true with many new activities we resolve to do. Therefore, to help us persevere in the practice of daily prayer we are also establishing a network of accountability that will keep the daily spiritual exercises from petering out. We will be exploring opportunities to connect occasionally either directly or electronically so our daily spiritual exercise may provide the sustenance we need to maintain our connection to God and God's purpose in our lives.

If you are interested in participating in this daily spiritual exercise and receive the *Bread for the Day* resource you can sign up on the sign-up sheet in the narthex or contact me or Anne Cormier. In the coming months Anne will also be leading a group which will explore traditional and alternative Christian spiritual practices. More information about this is to follow.

Finally, I want to acknowledge that funding for the Bread for the Day resource has come via an action team grant from Thrivent Financial. Let the nourishment of God's presence in your life create spiritual satisfaction in your New Year!

--Pastor Frey

**WORSHIP IN JANUARY, 2016**

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

**FROM THE PARISH RECORDS.....**

**Baptisms:** 11/29 **Kevin Michael Frankenfield**, son of Michael & Dawn Frankenfield & **Audrey Pearl LeGrand**, daughter of Adam & Katie (Centrella) LeGrand.

12/13 **Erin Skye Day**, daughter of Louis & Valerie Day

Memorial contributions given in memory of **Marie Linsenbigler** given by:

Mary Graefe (Memorial Fund)  
 Gerald & Pat Levensgood (Renovations)  
 Charles & Fern Brown (Renovations)

**Memorial Fund** contributions given in memory of **Keith Hunter** given by:

|                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Anna Brown       | Cynthia Bicking         |
| Betty Brumbach   | Frank & Kathy Jablonski |
| Adrienne Sheeler | John & Kathy Meehan     |
| Ann Mengel       | John & Jeane Serrian    |

**Renovations Fund** contributions given in memory of **Keith Hunter** given by:

|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dave & Carole Renninger | Jane Kinder             |
| Mary Graefe             | Gerald & Pat Levensgood |
| Calvin & Ellen Sheeler  | Helen Strain            |
| Gary & Cindy Weidner    | Tom & Debbie Longstaff  |
| Frank & Dorothy Brown   | Jan Schell              |
| Greg & Norma Godon      | Lee & Sandra Hart       |

**Agape Fund** contributions given in memory of **Keith Hunter** given by:

|                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Gene & Denise Buckwalter | Howard & Connie Hunter |
| Karen Glaser             |                        |

**Memorial Fund** contributions given in memory of **Mary Levensgood**

given by:

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Phyllis Harwood        | Ruth Walters      |
| Howard & Connie Hunter | Karl & Anne Gross |

**Memorial Fund** contribution given in memory of **Russ High** given by:

Phyllis Harwood

**Memorial Fund** contribution given in memory of **Harold Gross** given by:

Karl & Anne Gross

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

*"I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by." Ecclesiastes 3:14-15*



● Thank you to everyone who allowed us to borrow your nativity set for the Nativity Museum. Many people have stopped and pondered the story together. It was great to see parents and grandparents discussing the story and the characters

with their children and grandchildren. One child was excited when she saw a nativity set from her grandma.

●Thank you also to all who donated the three large boxes of toys to the Toy Drive that was conducted by the Child Development Center and the 5th & 6th grade Sunday Church School Class. And also thank you to Sue Kucharik for doing a Thrivent Action Team. Several friends went shopping with her to supplement the drive done by the children.

●Thank you to all who contributed to the Christmas Food Baskets which were given to five needy families in the Daniel Boone Middle School.

You would think with all these thank you messages it was Thanksgiving. However our work to help others continues into the Advent/Christmas season. As we end the year remembering what “God has done” we remember that we are God’s hands by doing the things God has inspired us to do.

Yes, I am still pondering on the third chapter of Ecclesiastes. As I continue to have my “last” events as Christian Education Coordinator I thank all who have given me well wishes in retirement and have asked me to share what plans I have for that time. Your asking also allows me to articulate my plans and gives some accountability as I create this wish list of things to do. Indeed God has done many things through us and will continue to inspire us to do more things.

May you have a blessed New Year as you ponder what you will do in the year ahead.

**WOMAN’S GROUP** -- Tuesday, January 26 @ 7 pm.....

Program and leader has not yet been determined.  
But we did do some planning ahead.

Tuesday, February 23 @ 7 pm

Leader: Kris Kennedy

Topic: Zentangle

Don’t know what it is, good reason to come and find out.

**LABYRINTH GROUP** -- Monday, January 11 .....

Gather at 10 am at St. Paul’s. If the weather is nice we will check out our labyrinth. And if the weather is not good for a walk we will do a new year devotions inside.

**WOMEN’S RETREAT**

Friday, April 8 from 2 - 8 pm & Saturday, April 9 from 9 am - 3 pm  
at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Library

Theme: Lavender Springs Spa!

**ADULT FORUM** meets Sunday morning at 9:15 am in the Church Library. The first class in January will be to discuss what you would like to study for the second half of the education year. Come and join the conversation.

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**.....



While this year did not seem as busy as other years we did have a successful event. We had an income over \$18,000. Next month we will give a full report as expenses are still coming in. Thank you for all who helped. Marlane did figure 143 people (22 Thrivent members) contributed 925 volunteer hours. An important benefit to this event is the comradery that takes place as we bake and make things together. Thrivent Financial will contribute \$777 toward our gift to the Reading Hospital visitors program. More info next month.

**SPYY (ST. PAUL’S YOUNGER YOUTH)** -- Monday, January 18

Service day in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We have not made final plans yet for our service activity. Watch the bulletin and the email notes sent out by Wendy Yambor.



**HELP NEEDED.....**

On December 7, Betty Clark, Jane Kinder and I took flannel shirts, hooded sweat shirts and some other donated clothing to the Hope Rescue Mission in Reading, along with 5 coconut cream pies. The appreciation is overwhelming from those who have so little.

We were given a mini tour of the building which includes a lovely chapel. We were told they have chapel every evening before the evening meal. We met the pastor as well as one of the men in charge of helping the men in whatever their need might be. They start out by helping the ones that cannot help themselves. They take them through each stage of their needs not only with food and shelter but with their need to find the Lord. They try to help every man to be able to finally return to society through their help, and of course the help and love of God.

**We volunteered to supply a meal on Thursday January 14<sup>th</sup>** and we would appreciate any help you would like to give. You can make cookies or help by donating supplies. We will need help to serve, and also any help you can give in the actual preparation of the food as well.

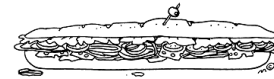
Sincerely, Mary Graefe

**CALLING ALL TRIVIA EXPERTS.....**



Which is taller, the Statue of Liberty or the Eiffel Tower? What is the capital of South Dakota? In what sport might you execute an Eskimo Roll? How is your knowledge of random information? Find out on Sunday, January 31, for **TRIVIA NIGHT**, beginning at 5:30 pm. This will be a free, fun, family evening, hosted by the Fellowship Committee. We'll compete as tables - come as a group or be paired with others. Invite friends; non-congregation members are welcome. We'll begin the evening with a pot luck meal; please bring a covered dish. Let us know you're coming by signing up on the sheet on the Narthex Table.

**FASTNACHT SALE** this year is scheduled for February 3, 4 and 5. Order sheets will be on the table in the narthex or call Anna Brown at 610-582-4598. As always, volunteers are needed for this fundraising project.



**SUPERBOWL HOAGIES.....**

Perfect for the big game ~ order enough to make a platter! Choose from Italian, Ham or Turkey. We'll make them fresh Sunday morning, February 7th. You may take them home after worship service; we'll have them ready from 9 am - 12 Noon. Just \$6. Order by January 31 on the sheet on the Narthex Table. All proceeds benefit the Renovations Fund.

**PORK & SAUERKRAUT DINNER.....**

The Fellowship Committee welcomes you to an all-you-can-eat dinner on Saturday, January 16 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy Pork, Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes, Applesauce, Dinner Rolls, Hot Dogs for children, Coffee and Dessert. Just \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Enjoy a delicious evening of fun and fellowship. Please use the sign-up sheet in the Narthex by Jan. 10 to help us prepare. Snow date will be Sunday, January 17. All proceeds will benefit the Renovations Fund.

**2016 MISSION TRIP**

Join us for a memorable and rewarding experience, helping to make a difference in a community affected by disaster. Plans are being made to travel to New Jersey in February. Please contact Pastor Frey or Dave Renninger at [davetheasc@aol.com](mailto:davetheasc@aol.com) or 610-401-3655 if you are interested.

**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: Lilian Reber, Paul Reber, Kay Reber, Connor Reed, Josephine Reinhart, Garret Reinhardt, Darrell Reitmeyer, Margaret Reitmeyer, David Renninger, Carole Renninger, George Rhoades, P. Henry Rhoads, Gloria Rhoads, Ronald Rhoads, Kathy Rhoads, Sally Rhoads, Courtney Rhoads, Sherry Rhoads, Aubrey Ridge, Emily Ridge, William Ridge IV, Gerald Rohrbach, Jeane Rohrbach, Ralph Rohrbach, and Robin Rohrbach. 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: : Betty Clark, Linda Merkle, Frank McManus, Millard Watson, Rowan Milne, Robert Geiger, Patrick Magner, Gene Stewart, family & friends of Felix Carr, Bob Tursack, and all others listed below and those we name in our hearts: Delphine Altland, Geraldine Barbone, Matthew Barron, Lloyd Beaverson, Olivia Blair, Bryan B., Neil Brown, Geri C., Robin C., Tom Campbell, John Chambers, Shelli Davidheiser, Brenda Delgrosse, Barbara DePrefontaine, Jack Dilks, Linda Domergue, Nati English, Cindy Fake, Joanne Ferreri, Melissa Flannery, Joan Fleming, Thor Floreen, Lauren Freeman, Aaron Gabriel, John Gallagher, Michael Giorgio, Ron Glaser, Judy Grabowicz, Robert Graeff, Karen Haas, Jamie Harp, June Henninger, Geraldine Ingram, Kaley, Sue Keay, Todd Kelly, Jarrod Knowlden, Judith Kraft, Kurt Kramer, Dustin Kratz, Chloe Kucharik, Jack Lebo, Liane Lefever, Gloria Lutz, Bob Lyon, Lewis M., Ronald McCarraher, Jill March, Charles Marquette, Jr., June Miller, Laurel Miller, Marianne Moyer, Dan Muldoon, Carol Nocera, Vita Marie Pierno, Richard Pool, Ryan Pool, Heather Powers, Thomas Quinter, Arletta Reisch, Carole Rhoades, Jocelyn Rice, Lisa Rock, Robin Rohrbach, Louise Ruth, Susan Ryan, Steven Saylor, Greg Scheer, Gabriel Schulze, Audrey Serrian, John Serrian, Sr., Patsy Smale, Dale Szajek, Kim Szajek, Hank Thode, Linda Troil, Grace Vickers, Gretel Witkowski, Talin Woolstenholine, Norman Yocom, homebound—Alton Brown, Frank Brown, Grace Frey, Jan Haas, Pearl Miller, Gerry Reinert, Laura Schmale, Alma Shirey.



Note there are Prayer Request Cards in the pew racks.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2015 .....**

Contributions to the church for the year 2015 must be received before December 31 in order to be credited to your statement for 2015.

| <b>--YTD Giving thru November, 2015 --</b> |                      |                      |                  |               |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------|
|  | <u>Jan—Nov. 2014</u> | <u>Jan-Nov. 2015</u> | <u>Variance</u>  | <u>% chg.</u> |
| Offerings                                  | \$ 328,798           | \$ 310,999           | (\$ -17,799)     | -5.4          |
| Renovation Contr.                          | \$ 100,322           | 128,984              | 28,662           | 28.6          |
| <b>Total Giving</b>                        | <b>\$ 429,120</b>    | <b>\$ 439,983</b>    | <b>\$ 10,863</b> | <b>2.5</b>    |
| <br>Mortgage Balance                       |                      | <br>\$895,445.43     |                  |               |

**SNOW EMERGENCY .....**



In the event that we need to cancel Sunday Church School or Worship due to severe weather, it will be announced on Channel 69 as early as possible. The cancellation will also be on the church's answering machine (610-385-6616), website—[www.stpaulsdouglassville.com](http://www.stpaulsdouglassville.com), and Facebook.

**TRAIN DISPLAY AND FLOWER SHOW.....**

The Fall Apple Festival Committee is looking to enhance the event by adding family-friendly indoor activities, so that if the weather does not cooperate, the day will still be enjoyable. We would like to feature collectible train displays in the large rooms in the church basement.

The committee would also like to feature a flower show by inviting area garden center businesses to create displays. The committee is open to ideas and suggestions. If you have a train collection, or know someone that does, or if you have involvement with a flower shop or garden center, please contact Carole Renninger at [emilyndalesmom@aol.com](mailto:emilyndalesmom@aol.com) or 484-794-2652.



|      |                  |      |                     |
|------|------------------|------|---------------------|
| 1/1  | Blaire Eidell    | 1/19 | Ruth McVey          |
| 1/3  | Michael Hasara   |      | Jamie Trout         |
|      | Sydney Moody     | 1/20 | Kay Bonslaver       |
| 1/4  | Barry Leier      |      | Jeff Duplak         |
|      | Mary Lynagh      |      | Abigail Eckstein    |
|      | Laura Schmale    | 1/21 | Kelly Mooney        |
| 1/5  | Breylan Kupp     |      | Melissa Soto        |
| 1/7  | Ashton Hickey    |      | Jeffrey Sowers      |
|      | Lida McManus     |      | Cindy Weidner       |
| 1/8  | Larry Barr       | 1/24 | Sarah Bartra        |
| 1/9  | Ty Mueller       |      | Tami Levengood      |
| 1/11 | Phyllis Harwood  |      | Kiara Ray           |
| 1/12 | Rebecca Kucharik | 1/25 | Michele Hensley     |
| 1/13 | Diane Hartline   |      | Daniel Krystopa     |
|      | James Waring     | 1/26 | Anna Brown          |
| 1/15 | Kennedy Albright |      | Susan Murray        |
|      | Michele Kutsch   |      | Tim Oister          |
|      | Ruby Saylor      |      | Patsy Smale         |
|      | Lynne Zepp       | 1/27 | Nolan Tindall       |
| 1/16 | Michael Gregos   | 1/28 | Garret Reinhardt    |
|      | Hayden Moyer     |      | William Ridge, IV   |
| 1/18 | Adrianna Cozzone | 1/29 | Bonnie Simmons      |
|      | Ray DiSandro     |      | Jeffrey Sowers      |
|      | Susanne Leier    | 1/30 | Josephine Reinhardt |
|      | Connie Schittler | 1/31 | David Zepp          |
|      | Meghan Stack     |      |                     |

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO –**

|                               |      |         |
|-------------------------------|------|---------|
| Jeffrey & Susan Krystopa      | 1/12 | 25 yrs. |
| Chester & Marsha Springel     | 1/13 | 15 yrs. |
| John & Ellen Buck             | 1/16 | 64 yrs. |
| LeRoy & Barbara DePrefontaine | 1/19 | 59 yrs. |
| Steve & Beth Gabel            | 1/19 | 7 yrs.  |

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

# January 2016

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday                     | Saturday   |
|---|---|--|--|--|----------------------------|--|
| <b>3</b><br>8 & 10:30—Holy Comm.<br>9:15—Sunday School<br>9:15—Youth & Family<br>7 PM—Nar-Anon                | <b>4</b><br>8 AM—Pastors breakfast<br>6 PM—Girl Scouts<br>7 PM-Christian Ed.  | <b>5</b><br>Quilting<br>2 PM—TOPS<br>6:15—Child Dev. Comm. | <b>6</b><br>9 AM—Prayer Gr.<br>9:30—Bible Study<br>6 PM—Girl Scouts  | <b>7</b><br>Noon—Amity Fr. Circle<br>6 PM—T3<br>7 PM-Choir<br>7 PM—Girl Scouts                         | <b>1</b><br><hr/> <b>8</b> | <b>2</b><br>6 PM—Holy Comm.<br><b>9</b><br>8 AM—Council retreat<br>6 PM—Holy Comm.   |
| <b>10</b><br>8 & 10:30—Holy Comm.<br>9:15—Sunday School<br>9:30—Finance<br>SPLAT after 10:30<br>7 PM—Nar-Anon | <b>11</b><br>10 AM—Labyrinth Gr.<br>6 PM—Girl Scouts<br>7 PM—Pastoral Care  | <b>12</b><br>Quilting<br>2 PM--TOPS                        | <b>13</b><br>9 AM—Prayer Gr.<br>9:30—Bible Study<br>6 PM—Girl Scouts<br>6:15—Executive Com.<br>7 PM--Council | <b>14</b><br>Provide meal @ Hope Rescue Mission<br>7 PM-Choir<br>7 PM—Prayer Shawl<br>7 PM—Girl Scouts | <b>15</b>                  | <b>16</b><br>7:30 AM—Property<br>4—6 PM--Pork & sauerkraut dinner<br>6 PM—Holy Comm. |
| <b>17</b><br>8 & 10:30—Holy Comm.<br>9:15—Sunday School<br>Soc. Ministry after 10:30<br>7 PM—Nar-Anon         | <b>18</b><br>SPYY Service Project<br>6 PM—Bible Study<br>6 PM—Girl Scouts   | <b>19</b><br>Quilting<br>2 PM--TOPS                        | <b>20</b><br>9 AM—Prayer Gr.<br>9:30—Bible Study<br>6 PM—Girl Scouts   | <b>21</b><br>7 PM-Choir<br>7 PM—Girl Scouts<br>7:30—Crime Watch  | <b>22</b>                  | <b>23</b><br>6 PM—Holy Comm.   |
| <b>24</b><br>8 & 10:30--Worship<br>9:15—Sunday School<br>7 PM—Nar-Anon  | <b>25</b><br>6 PM—Girl Scouts   | <b>26</b><br>Quilting<br>2 PM—TOPS<br>7 PM-Women's Gr.     | <b>27</b><br>9 AM—Prayer Gr.<br>9:30—Bible Study<br>6 PM—Girl Scouts<br>7 PM—Worship & Music                 | <b>28</b><br>7 PM-Choir<br>7 PM—Girl Scouts  | <b>29</b>                  | <b>30</b><br>6 PM—Holy Comm.   |
| <b>31</b><br>8 & 10:30--Worship<br>9:15—Sunday School<br>5:30 PM –Trivia Night<br>7 PM—Nar-Anon               | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">                         Council persons in charge of services—<br/>                         Gary Weidner, Susie Kresge                     </div> |  |  |  |                            |  |