

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

JUNE, 2016

One of the most significant theologians of the 20th century was the Swiss Reformed theologian Karl Barth. Barth wrote extensively. His theological writings were, to say the least, immense. His systematic theology text titled, "Church Dogmatics" contains over 6 million words stretching over 16 volumes. I own one volume; it is impenetrable.

Allegedly, Karl Barth was at Rockefeller Chapel on the campus of the University of Chicago during his lecture tour of the U.S. in 1962. After his lecture, during the Q & A time, a student asked Barth if he could summarize his whole life's work in theology in a single sentence. I would think someone who had written so extensively would be annoyed by such a simplistic question, but Dr. Barth seemed un-phased. He answered the question saying, "Yes I believe I can. Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

I don't mean to minimize the value of thinking deeply about the complex questions of faith and life. But there must also be a place for the simple straightforward message Barth shared.


The other day at Bible study someone mentioned Tony Campolo, a popular evangelical speaker from St. David's University, calling himself a "red letter Christian" and asked me what that was. I really didn't know. I know that Bibles used to have the words of Jesus printed in red so I assumed it had something to do with that.

Then I did what I am always telling people they should do. I looked it up.

Red Letter Christians is a movement within the evangelical tradition (usually independent conservative Christian churches) to return to the words of Jesus as the basis for their ministry. They believe that churches have been co-opted by left and right wing political movements and are not concentrating enough on the biblical values of: peace, building strong families, the elimination of poverty and other issues so prevalent in the red letters of Jesus' teaching.

This movement is not meant to become a new church or denomination but rather a meeting place for Christians of various traditions who are passionate about the causes Jesus championed.

My purpose here is not to endorse this particular organization but to express my entire sympathy with what they are trying to do. Sincere Christians would do well to refocus on the kinds of things Jesus taught during his earthly ministry. Who were the people he associated with and what causes did Jesus champion? This is what Christians should be about and what causes people of faith should be investing their energies in.

So I am giving you an assignment. Sometime this summer read the Gospel of Luke, the gospel of concentration in church this year, and pay particular attention to the things Jesus said. Think about Jesus' ministry and his teaching. Are there recurring themes? What kind of person is Jesus in Luke's gospel? How does he conduct himself? How should someone (anyone) who claims  *Luke* to be Christian likewise conduct themselves? How can we advocate for the causes Jesus himself took up and the conduct demonstrated by his life and his approach to death?

Perhaps we will find that our discipleship, while not simplistic, should not be unnecessarily complicated. The things Jesus said and did, the Red Letters, are not vague or mysterious and neither should be our response to them.

--Pastor Frey

∞**WORSHIP IN JUNE**∞

June 4 6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
June 5 8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion
9:15 A.M. – Sunday School
June 11 6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
June 12 8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship
9:15 A.M. – Sunday School
June 18 6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
June 19 8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion
9:15 A.M. – Sunday School
June 25 6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
June 26 8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship
9:15 A.M. – Sunday School

FROM THE PARISH RECORDS.....

Baptisms: April 30 – **Riley Grace Yetter**, daughter of Jeffrey & Justine (Bajorek) Yetter

May 7 – **Gabriel Phoenix Schulze**, son of Joshua Richard & Tiffany Schulze

Jamison Neil Young, son of Joshua & Melanie (Schulze) Young

May 8 – **Henry Michael Szajek**, son of Mathew Szajek & Tiffany Noll

Gabriel Santos Gross, daughter of Chris & Bianca Gross

Wedding: May 14 – **Derrick Landis & Tina Kisch**

Contributions to the **Memorial Fund** in memory of **Jack Waring** given by Carol DeLong and Ann & Bob Taylor

Contribution to the **Renovations Fund** for **Arlan Stetzler** given by Jane Kinder.

Contributions to the **Memorial Fund** for **Linda Merkle** given by Bob Fisher and Amity Friendship Circle

Contributions to the **Renovations Fund** for **Linda Merkle** given by Jane Kinder and Howard & Connie Hunter.

Contribution to the **Renovations Fund** in memory of **John Aulenbach** given by Frank & Dorothy Brown

Contribution to the **Memorial Fund** in memory of **Tracy Smale** given by Mary Graefe

Congratulations to our confirmands:

Maeve Jillian Bartra Caitlin Rose Hoag
Madalynne Forster David Lau
Greg Hensley Ryan Connor
Levengood



MARLANE'S FINAL MESSAGE.....

Typically when a called person leaves a congregation to move on to a new call, a member of Synod staff meets with the Congregation Council to conduct an exit interview. I have asked Mary Gade if I could respond to the appropriate questions in this newsletter article so that the entire congregation can see my responses. Since some questions refer to future call I have selected 7 of the 12 questions as most appropriate to my situation.

Indeed, 7 is a biblical number signifying completeness as in the 7 days of creation. So 7 questions is a good sign of completeness. Also St. Paul's, Douglassville is the 7th congregation I have served as a rostered leader. So after my 7th congregation I feel I have completed all that the Lord required in this leadership role and it is time to retire.

Exit Interview for Professional Leadership Transition

1. When you accepted a call from this congregation 15 years ago, what were the compelling reasons for your coming here? What was attractive to you in this parish at that time?

+15 years ago I was at a transition time in my life. After spending most of my life caring for my parents, in 1997 both of my parents were gone leaving me with a big house and a lot of stuff. I was now free to leave

my childhood home behind and move on to new ventures. When I was ten years old I wanted to be a teacher. When I was in college I was looking forward to starting my own preschool which my home congregation allowed me to do there for two years. St Paul's Preschool and a Day Care were attractive for my years of interest. Actually many years ago I did interview with Pastor Schell for a position here but at that time I was not able to move. I had worked with Jan on the Synod Christian Education programs for several years so I knew this was a congregation with a strong interest in Christian education.

2. In your ministry here, did you find what you expected?

+definitely and then some. The challenges of being an administrator in a growing institution dedicated to serving children has met my expectations.

3. What five things have given you the sense of greatest fulfillment? With what are you happy or pleased?



- a) I have been happy to be a part of seeing a "basement" program flourish into a beautiful community service center. Taking a Pre-School and Child Care programs into a new Child Development Center has been very fulfilling. During my growing years I worked with my father to build our house in various stages and for various needs. So working with the contractors on the new facility was fulfilling and fun.*
- b) Responding to the needs of the women in the congregation to have a ministry group was a pleasure to do. The fulfilling part came from moving to one Women's retreat a year to two a year. Watching the attendance numbers grow each year and the appreciation of the women attending made me happy.*
- c) "Oh the places we have been" through the Labyrinth Group. We have traveled to Delaware, Baltimore (to meet a labyrinth builder), Philadelphia, and many other labyrinths we discovered. The cap to happiness was when Justin Frey constructed a labyrinth at St. Paul's as an Eagle Scout project.*
- d) At St. Paul's volunteers are plentiful. When asked to do a specific project or to contribute to a specific cause the folks of St. Paul's come through with flying colors.*
- e) This position has given me a variety of activities allowing me to work in areas I am most comfortable and in areas where I needed to stretch my comfort level and learn something new.*

4. What five things have frustrated you? With what are you unhappy or disappointed?

- a) A joy was that Kendra Johnson Day, Taryn Myers, and Matt Chroscinski accepted the invitation to attend a regional and national youth gathering. The frustration has been that I was not able to challenge other youth to attend such events. National and regional youth gatherings have been growth experiences for the youth attending, especially told to me by youth from my previous congregations.*
- b) Dealing with Child Development Center staffing issues has been frustrating. Finding the balance between being an employer and a caring Christian is a challenge. When I had to inform staff that they were not meeting our expectations, the response that hurt the most was, "and you call yourself a Christian." Interviewing folks and determining in a short interview how they will be as an employee was stressful. Blessings to any of you who spend your career in an HR department!*
- c) I am unhappy that I am not able to see some items on my wish list completed. Such as a few classroom changes and a more extensive family ministry program.*
- d) Frustrating is a trend I experience here and in other organizations where I am a volunteer is folks not observing deadlines. I can predict that the number of reservations made on the deadline date will be 1/3 to 1/2 more on the day of the event. As an event planner this is frustrating. Late responses mean more time spent trying to update materials needed.*
- e) Years of hearing that we want youth group but struggling to involve already over scheduled youth in one more activity in the church. Also finding adults willing to assist with leadership, especially since they are also over scheduled. I had hoped that family events would be more of an emphasis.*



5. What do you consider the strengths and weaknesses of this congregation as you leave?

As I said above, this congregation has a good group of volunteers. They would often say to me "you organize, because I can't get all the details together, I will help." Indeed this congregation has a lot of good helpers and few people having the confidence to be a leader. We all do have different skills and that is why the Committee system works so well. Together you have the skills needed to be the good leaders you are.

6. What type of ministry do you feel is needed here? What areas of ministry and programs do you feel should be retained and continued? What present and new areas should get emphasis in the future?

With the Personnel Committee I have shared the need for a Property Manager. This is a large facility and with its extensive daily use is starting to feel the wear. One person is needed to coordinate the activities of the building, the repair needs, and working with salespeople and contractors. The true need is for coordination.

Because every year Sunday School classes and the number of teachers willing to serve decrease, there is a need for Christian education to expand into family ministry. If they don't come to church, how can the church come to them. Families need ways to teach Christian education on a daily basis in the home. That's what Martin Luther had in mind when he wrote the Small Catechism.

7. What were your "goals" for this parish five to ten years from now – your unfulfilled aspirations?

I had hoped that St. Paul's would become a teaching center. Some of this is done for young children with the Child Development Center. Their role of teaching expanded with participation in the Co-op program of Berks Technical School. Over the years we have had four students. I was hoping to look for more opportunities, especially for adults, to have educational events here.

Finally, thank you Pastor Frey for sharing with me this special role in the congregation, Susanne for her years of wisdom and support in administration, Kitty for being a fellow traveler on many roads, Bonnie & Patrick for faithful work in keeping our facility in great condition, to the members of this congregation for the friendships, pushing me at times into an uncomfortable zone for growth, supporting with the many



ministries we have done together, and being spiritual guides with me on this journey of being faithful children of God. May we continue on this path of serving God in many ways in many places.

WOMEN'S GROUP

Monday, June 27
Reschedule of Carol Haile, Author & Illustrator

"Frakturs, the Traditional Script of the early PA Germans" (illustrated certificates especially baptism and marriage)

Carol will offer her books for sale at this time. She has a website www.CarolJHaile.com

In her first book The Christmas Story, she illuminated the traditional words from the Bible of the first Christmas. In her second book A Dream Vacation, Carol tells the story of two pandas who accepted an offer from Noah. Hope you can join us as we hear about this local artist.

LABYRINTH GROUP.....

Monday, June 13
Meet at Church parking lot at 10 am to travel to Epler's, Leesport

MARLANE'S RETIREMENT LUNCHEON.....

There will be a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, June 26, to honor Marlane as she retires at the end of June. A roast beef dinner, prepared by Bause Catered Events, will be served following the 10:30 service. Cost is \$20 per adult; \$10 for children 10 and under. Tickets may be purchased following worship services or at the church office.

Deadline to purchase tickets is June 15.

Please plan to attend and celebrate with Marlane as she is about to enter this new chapter in her life.





From **Daniel Boone High School:**

Sean Bologna	Bryce Johnson	Christopher Lynagh
Justin Frey	Andrew Kresge	Alex Maloney
Madelyn Hicks	Alex Kutz	Jacob Trombley
Sarah Hoag	Rachel Lau	Amanda Williams

From **The Hill School:**

Nicholas Chroscinski

From **Lebanon Valley College:** Ashley Kutz



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sunday, June 19 - Thursday, June 23
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm (dinner at 5:30 pm)



Theme: Surf Shack: Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love
Registration fee: \$14 (covers all program expenses which include T-shirt, music CD, craft supplies, snacks, etc.)

Registration forms are available on the table in the narthex or on the website.

SPYY (St. Paul's Younger Youth—Grades 1-6).....

Sunday, June 12 – 1:00 P.M.

School's Out Ice Cream Party. Ice cream and games.
Bring an ice cream topping to share.



NEW AT ST. PAUL'S.....

Have you seen the construction going on right outside our worship space? The St. Paul Labyrinth is being surrounded by 60 columbaria. A columbarium is a place for cremated remains. Cremation is becoming more popular. It seems very appropriate to provide a space for families around the Labyrinth which is used for meditation and prayer. Jan Schell requested a space to entomb her husband's remains, thus began the conversation for a columbarium.

You will see five columbarium areas with 12 niches in each. A Columbarium Committee has been established, created guidelines, determined pricing and presented "Bylaws, Policies and Procedures" for Church Council approval. We are now ready to start accepting applications. Call the Church Office (610-385-6616) for a copy of the policies and an application.

The introductory price is \$1,250 per niche. There will be an additional cost for plate engraving at the time of the service of placement. Between each columbarium is a park bench (4) which can be sponsored in memory of a loved one for \$500 plus the cost of engraving.

RECENT COUNCIL APPROVALS.....

- Approved the construction of a columbarium surrounding the labyrinth at a cost of \$75,000. There will be 60 niches with the initial purchase price being \$1,250 per niche.
- Approved Kathy & Frank Jablonski as our voting members to the Synod Assembly.
- Approved a donation of \$2,000 to St. Paul's Cemetery Association for cemetery mowing.
- Approved the hiring of an Assistant Director for the Child Development Center.
- Approved a bid of \$8,480 from Clean Image to strip and wax floors.

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: Harlan Swavely, Larry Swavely, Eileen Swavely, Adam Sypherd, Nicole Sypherd, Olivia Sypherd, Dale Szajek, Kathy Szajek, Seth Szajek, Ronald Tindall, Nan Tindall, Noah Tindall, Nathan Tindall, Nolan Tindall, Len Trauger, Geraldine Trauger, Jacob Trombley, Abigail Trombley, James Trout, Judith Trout, Jamie Trout, Katherine Trout, Anne Trout. 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: Amy Adam, Barbara Baranowsky, Nati English, Robert Geiger, Richard Hoar, Frank McManus, Raymond Miller, Rowan Milne, Ronald Trace, Greg Trout, family and friends of Norman Yocom, Ginny Romig, Louise Ruth, Tracy Smale, and all others listed below and those we name in our hearts: Delphine Altland, Michael Bach, Jane Baron, Olivia Blair, Bryan B., Robin C., Tom Campbell, Don Charlesworth, Charles Davidheiser, Mr. & Mrs. Davidson, Barbara DePrefontaine, Jack Dilks, Linda Domergue, Mary Ellen Eidell, Cindy Fake, Joanne Ferreri, Melissa Flannery, Gene Fleming, Thor Floreen, Lauren Freeman, Robert Fucinato, John Gallagher, Ida Gilbert, Michael Giorgio, Ron Glaser, Judy Grabowicz, Robert Graeff, Jamie Harp, Ron Harris, June Henninger, Arlene Hildebeitel, Marie Hoar, John & Margaret Kakas, Sue Keay, Todd Kelly, Jarrod Knowlden, Kurt Kramer, Rich Kucharik, Jack Lebo, Liane Lefever, Gloria Lutz, Lewis M., Ronald McCarraher, Tricia Magner, Jill March, Adrianna Marchewski, Charles Marquette, Jr., Donna Meloy, Harold Mest, Laurel Miller, Marianne Moyer, Dan Muldoon, Sandy Murphy, Sandi Mutter, Ron Mutter, Carol Nocera, Vita Marie Pierno, Richard Pool, Heather Powers, Patti Pyle, Arletta Reisch, Carole Rhoades, Jocelyn Rice, Jason Roland, Susan Ryan, Greg Scheer, Gabriel Schulze, Audrey Serrian, John Serrian, Sr., Ellen Sheeler, Bill Stecula, Gene Stewart, Johnna Storck, Dale Szajek, Kim Szajek, Jeanie Templin, Hank Thode, Linda Troil, Grace Vickers, Tom Vroman, Scott Walley, Sandy Wamsher, Millard Watson, Nathan Weaver, Charles Weiser, Ruth Ann Williams, Tim Williams, Jill Wrigley, homebound— Geraldine Barbone*, Alton Brown, Frank Brown, Grace Frey, Jan Haas, Earl Hafer, Pearl Miller, Laura Schmale, Alma Shirey. *Non-member



Note there are Prayer Request Cards in the pew racks.

*Happy
Birthday!*

6/1	Nicole Klink	6/14	Riley Muschick
6/2	Erin Day		Susanne Walley
	Tracy Detwiler	6/15	Kylie Oesterling
6/3	Paige DePrefontaine	6/16	Sean Bologna
	Janice Goodman	6/17	Darvin Levensgood
	Kathy Kline		Andy Mooney
	Cory Miller	6/18	Amy McCormick
	Jared Miller		Nancy Stewart
6/4	Lucas Garcia	6/19	Ellen Buck
	Aspyn Shaffer		Addison Cloutier
	Ryan Siwinski		Jennifer MacMullin
	Justin Sowers		Brianna Wlajnitz
6/5	June Geiger	6/20	Lylia DePrefontaine
	Avery Yetter		Rob Edinger
6/6	George Heath	6/21	Amelia Fretz
	Donna Smith	6/22	Maxwell Cicala
6/7	David Hiser		Patricia Sowers
	David Holeman		Lincoln Stoudt
	Daniel Lee		Larry Swavely
6/9	Janet Levensgood	6/23	Rick Weiler
6/10	McKinley Albright	6/24	LeRoy DePrefontaine
	Tammy Eisenhard		Rory Emery
	Nick Freitag	6/25	Greg Kresge
6/11	Betty Clark		Jake Musselman
	Gregory Hensley	6/26	Carl Pratt
	James Wolfe	6/27	Charlie Brown
	Ken Yoder		Shirley Holeman
6/12	Charles Fix	6/28	Sheila Angstadt
	Christa Oister	6/29	Charles Marquette
	April Royer	6/30	Karen Brown
6/13	Matt Kresge		Garrett Gabel
	Jan Schell		Lilian Reber

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO --

Michael & Melissa Gregos	6/1	25 yrs.
Rich & Kristin Saylor	6/3	10 yrs.
Len & Geraldine Trauger	6/3	55 yrs.
Carl & Marjorie Pratt	6/4	28 yrs.
Jamie & Sara Trout	6/4	5 yrs.
Dale & Kathy Szajek	6/5	40 yrs.
Charles & Margaret Burns	6/7	64 yrs.
Jay & Pat McClafferty	6/14	41 yrs.
Dave & Sue Prizer	6/14	41 yrs.
John & Linda Heisey	6/15	48 yrs.
Ray & Carolyn DiSandro	6/17	10 yrs.
Ron & Kathy Rhoads	6/18	39 yrs.
Daniel & Darlene Light	6/20	57 yrs.
Lynwood & Joan Weil	6/20	35 yrs.
John & Jeane Serrian	6/22	25 yrs.
Jerry & Jennifer MacMullin	6/24	27 yrs.
John & Tiffany Cappellano	6/25	11 yrs.
Craig & Wendy Yambor	6/26	17 yrs.
Judd & Tammy Eisenhard	6/28	8 yrs.
David & Shirley Holeman	6/28	41 yrs.
Harry & Carol Hafer	6/29	48 yrs.
Tom Beil & Beth Jablonski	6/30	9 yrs.



Jan Haas would like to thank everybody that prayed for her, Mr. Bause for bringing the lovely mixed pot of plants, Helen Strain for lunch, and Pastor Frey for visiting at home and the rehab.

JUNE, 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
--Money Counters-- <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: left;"> 8:00 Gary Weidner Kathy Meehan June Geiger </div> <div style="text-align: left;"> 10:30 Cindy Matosky Tim Oister Joanne Guss </div> </div>			1 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study	2	3	4 6 PM—Holy Comm.
5 8 & 10:30—Holy Com. 9:15—Sunday School 9:30—Finance Comm. 7 PM—Nar-Anon	6 7 PM—Christian Ed	7 Quilting 9:30—Craft workshop 2 PM-TOPS 6:30—KE Program	8 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study	9 Friendship Circle bus trip 7 PM—Prayer Shawl	10	11 6 PM—Holy Comm.
12 8 & 10:30—Worship 9:15—Sunday School SPLAT after 10:30 1 PM--SPYY	13 10 AM—Labyrinth Gr. 7 PM—Pastoral Care	14 Quilting 9:30—Crafts 2 PM-TOPS 6:15—Child Dev.	15 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study 6:15—Executive Com. 7--Council	16 6 PM—T3 Comm. 7:30 PM—Crime Watch	17 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> -----Synod Assembly----- </div>	18 7:30 AM--Property 6 PM—Holy Comm.
19 8 & 10:30—Holy Com. 9:15—Sunday School 7 PM—Nar-anon	20 6 PM—Bible Study	21 Quilting 9:30—Craft workshop 2 PM-TOPS	22 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study 7—Worship & Music	23	24	25 6 PM—Holy Comm.
-----6:00 –8:00 -----Vacation Bible School---- Dinner @5:30-----						
26 8 & 10:30—Worship 9:15—Sunday School 7 PM—Nar-Anon	27 7 —Women’s Gr.	28 Quilting 9:30—Crafts 2 PM-TOPS	29 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study	30	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> Council persons in charge of services— Carole Renninger, Tim Oister </div>	