



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

JULY, 2017

Since turning 50 I have become conscious of need to turn the corner toward more attentiveness to issues of health. I am told that there are certain test and procedures that I must undertake because I am...over 50. I have no reason to doubt this even if I have a hard time generating enthusiasm about it.

Health is a central issue in Jesus' ministry. Of the roughly 37 miracles performed by Jesus in the gospels 31 (if you include casting out demons...which I do!) involved healing. You might say that healing and health were at the core of Jesus' message concerning the Kingdom of God.

Taking care to attend to one's health is a matter of respecting the body which is a gift through God's creation. But attending to our personal health is not only about being good to ourselves. In Jesus' teaching, the central act of discipleship is loving God and serving our neighbors. In fact, Jesus treated these as one thing (Matthew 22:37-40, Luke 10:27). In order to be there for our neighbors we need to have the physical health and stamina required to physically serve. Our personal health, then, is not only for ourselves but can and should be maintained also for the sake of those around us. This is more than a suggestion, it is a commandment and the commandment Jesus identified as the "greatest."

Related to this Jesus taught his disciples to have concern for the health and well-being of their neighbors. The gospel of Luke contains one of the best known parables in the Bible, the Good Samaritan. Prefatory to the parable a man tested Jesus by asking which commandment was the "greatest." Jesus responded, "You shall love the Lord your God with all

your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27) We are then told the man, seeking to justify himself, asked a follow up question. "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus answered with a parable so well-known and beloved that I don't think I need to quote it here. I might point out, however, that the Samaritan who fulfilled the central biblical injunction to "love your neighbor as yourself," which Jesus said was akin to loving God, carried out that function through providing care for the health of a man badly injured. This care was provided *directly* by the Samaritan by means of applying bandages, wine and oil. That care was also furnished *indirectly* by giving out of his financial resources to have the man's additional health care needs provided by someone else (the innkeeper).

Martin Luther also weighed in on the centrality for Christians of concern for the health of our neighbors in the *Small Catechism*, that classic confirmation text of which Luther claimed he was a lifetime student. In the commentary on the fifth commandment *Thou shalt not murder*, Luther answered the question, *What does this mean?* with this answer: We are to fear and love God, so that we neither endanger nor harm the lives of our neighbors, but instead help and support them in all of life's needs. I believe Luther would argue that health is an, perhaps THE, essential need of life. Our health, and the health of our neighbors (defined by Jesus as whoever is in need) is central to our faithful living and personal and communal lives of discipleship.

As is well known to Americans these days, issues of health and wellbeing in our modern world can be very complicated. In 2003 the ELCA Churchwide Assembly meeting in Milwaukee adopted a social statement on health titled, "Caring for Health: Our Shared Endeavor." This statement faithfully explores the biblical, theological and social issues and concerns related to personal health, ethics, and the effectiveness and availability of healthcare. I would strongly encourage you to take a look at this document which is available on the ELCA website in the Faith and Society section under social statements. <https://www.elca.org/en/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Health-Care>.

Although that statement is 14 years old now, the themes it explores and the hopes and expectations for our personal discipleship and our

advocacy for a just society are still very relevant. The final portion of the statement contains some guidelines for individuals and families which I want to include here to guide you as you consider issues of health and healthcare from the perspective of biblical faith and the ethic of Christ.

Ethical Guidance for Individuals and Families

Health care as a shared endeavor entails responsible ethical decision making by individuals and families. As people provide and receive health care, they likely will at some time face difficult decisions regarding their own or another's well-being. Decisions about life-prolonging treatments are among the most common and difficult, but they are not the only situations for which an ethical framework is needed.

1. Health and Finitude. Finding ethical guidance begins with being mindful of how we as people of faith understand health and health care and what it means to be healthy. We must accept the limits imposed by human finitude and have realistic expectations of health care because our resources also are finite. Health eventually fails; suffering and death come to us all. The promise of the resurrection means that suffering and death are not the final word for our lives.

2. Love. People ought always to act out of love, as exemplified by the life of Jesus Christ. Love means giving of ourselves for the sake of others' well-being, doing no harm, promoting the wellbeing of the neighbor, and treating people with respect and dignity as children of God and as whole persons.

3. Stewardship. The obligation to be good stewards of what God has given us should inform our use of health care resources. This means using health and health care wisely, judiciously, and in service toward God and God's purposes. Congregations are one place to which individuals and families can look for support and guidance in considering these decisions.

4. Justice. In addition, people should consider their individual health care decisions within the context of the just distribution of health care resources. Health care and its technological instruments increasingly are powerful and expensive. People should ask not only whether they are

being served as individuals, but also whether anyone is being left behind in the ongoing advance of medical progress.

5. Self-determination. A dominant principle in health care ethics is the right of individuals to be freely self-determining with regard to their own bodies and medical treatment decisions (autonomy). This principle rightly protects against unjustifiable medical and familial paternalism. This church supports an individual's freedom to make health care decisions according to her or his own conscience and moral discernment. Yet, ultimately people belong to God, and the exercise of self-determination should always be understood within that relationship.

As Christians we discern our moral responsibilities through consulting Scripture, the experience of the community of faith, and the exercise of reason. We deliberate about our decisions not merely as patients or caregivers, but as seekers of God's will. We recognize that the broader dimensions of health and healing compel us to consider our neighbor and our love for them as we make decisions. Above all, we ask God for guidance, mercy, and forgiveness in all our decision-making.

Conclusion

Christians know that health and healing are from God, "who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases" (Psalm 103:3). We wait patiently and hopefully for healing, which may come through cure or in reconciliation with God, our neighbor, and our own selves, even without cure. Sometimes reconciliation with God or the neighbor may be a prelude to physical healing: "Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed" (James 5:16). Such healing may not result in complete health, but it reflects God's goodness and mercy and anticipates the full healing of life and the peace that is to come.

Accepting health care as a shared endeavor requires commitment of all people to the well-being of their neighbor and themselves. It also requires the commitment of all to work for change in a political, economic, and cultural environment that often is more adversarial than cooperative. The Church is a community that, through Word and Sacrament and the actions of its faithful, can bear witness to the commitments of love and justice that change will require.

The Gospel offers the world the hope of abundant and everlasting life that liberates us from idolatry of health and fear of death. Out of this freedom, Christians can accept the limits of this life and seek to realize a vision of health care for all people as a shared endeavor. ("Caring for Health: Our Shared Endeavor," social statement of the ELCA [2003] 21-23)

--Pastor Frey

--WORSHIP IN JULY--

July 1	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
July 2	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion
July 8	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
July 9	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship
July 15	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
July 16	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion
July 22	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
July 23	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship
July 29	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
July 30	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship

FROM THE PARISH RECORDS.....

Funeral: June 13 – Steven E. Bonetz

Wedding: June 17 – Eric Kupp & Erika Killian

DID YOU KNOW?.....by Joy Gerhart

Since I'm experiencing and learning new things about St. Paul's, I'm learning that others here don't know about all facets of St. Paul's activities and ministries, so I will be sharing with you what I am learning.

Someone asked me if the Child Development Center is run by a separate organization and wondered if they paid rent. Did you know that the Child Development Center (CDC) is a very important part of St. Paul's and its ministry to the community? You might have read that the CDC was awarded a Keystone Stars Two Star rating which qualifies the center for monetary grants to help purchase supplies and offer more pay to some employees. The staff, especially the directors, worked very hard to achieve this rating.

Did you know that 105 children attended day care this year (including before and after school care) and an additional 56 in preschool and Kindergarten enrichment? There are 33 staff members of the CDC including preschool and Kindergarten enrichment, staff ably coordinated by Director Sherry Gardner and Assistant Director Kristin Saylor. Did you know that the CDC helps to pay half of St. Paul's mortgage every year and is overseen by the Child Development Committee staffed by St. Paul's members?



The CDC will be connecting with St. Paul's VBS theme, Hero Central, through stories and activities led each week throughout the summer. I will be sharing weekly Bible stories. The kids will also be swimming and enjoying field trips which will make the summer a very exciting time! The directors are even working together with St. Paul's UCC to share some exciting activity time.

St. Paul's Child Development Center is a wonderful resource for the community. We have wonderful staff members, programs and facilities. This spring we received a new "ark" (wooden ship) for the children to enjoy in the playground which is accessible to the community and will soon be surrounded by new mulch partially funded by the income from the Basket Social.

There is lots to be proud of in this wonderful ministry of St. Paul's! (Is there an activity or group at St. Paul's you'd like to read about? Let Joy Gerhart know. Thanks!)



OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH.....

2018 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING IN HOUSTON, TX

This summer we are inviting all youth who will be entering 9th grade in 2018 up to those who will have graduated in 2018 to consider attending the next ELCA Youth Gathering June 27-July 1, 2018 in Houston Texas. Imagine traveling to Texas! Imagine worship with 30,000 other Lutherans! Imagine engaging in activities that help deepen your faith in God.! Imagine getting to meet other Lutherans from around the country! Imagine helping others in need in Texas!

The theme for this gathering is “This Changes Everything” based on Ephesians 2:8. (Look it up! It’s an important Bible verse for Lutherans!) This can be an exciting and even life-changing experience for youth. Let us know who wants to go! This kind of event happens only once every three years. Please contact Pastor Frey, Cindy Matosky, or Joy Gerhart. Registration begins September 15th, 2017!

SPLAT (St. Paul’s Lutheran Active Teens) Grades 7-12.....



The July meeting will be our annual picnic/pool party on **Sunday, July 9th** at the **Jablonski’s** (651 Daniel Boone Road, Birdsboro). Party will start at 12:30 pm. Once again we are extending the invitation to youth and parents of the upcoming 7th grade, all entering 7th to 12th

grades. as well as those going off to college. Bring a towel, suit, soccer chair, and side dish or dessert. Watch for a sign-up sheet on the Youth Group table in the fellowship hall.



WHAT IS A DEACON?.....

This is a question that probably very few of you are asking. Deacon, deaconess, diaconal, and Diakon (our Lutheran Social Service Agency) all come from the Greek word that means servant. On January 1, 2017, all people who had received education and approval to be Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses or Diaconal Ministers of the ELCA and had been functioning in calls with those titles became Deacons. Instead of three lists (or rosters) of people who serve the ELCA as ministers of “Word and Service,” now there is one list or roster. (Pastors are considered ministers of Word and Sacrament. Deacons are not authorized, usually, to administer sacraments, but pastors do serve.) Prior to the formation of the ELCA, many deacons were lay professional leaders or certified lay professionals, titles that didn’t always sound just right. Then after the merger of LCA, ALC and AELC into the ELCA, the title of Associates in Ministry was created to replace the former title. Deaconesses remained Deaconesses and a new roster called Diaconal Ministers was created, with the intention of their work to be outside of a congregation.

There were retreats and discussions among regional Word and Service ministers about titles, listings, expectations, and recommendations to bishops. A few years ago, a task force was formed to study, discuss, and present to the churchwide assembly an alternative to the 3 rosters. The ELCA voted at the August 2016 assembly to combine the three rosters into one and use the title “deacon” starting January 2017. Not all on the deacon roster are ecstatic about the title “deacon,” but it is meant by the church to acknowledge an important collection of ministries done by those serving the church who are not ordained. (To read about deacons in the early Christian church see Acts 6:1-4 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13.)

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly, Unleashed for Reformation 2017, June 2-3

This year the synod gathered pastors, deacons and congregational representatives at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in Pocono Manor, PA. After a welcome from the manager of the Kalahari Resort, we were led in worship by Bishop Zeiser and Roman Catholic Bishop

Bambera. We elected a new Vice-President of Synod Council, Barbara Huffman de Belon from Leighton, and a new synod Treasurer, Donald Dillman from Frackville. (We had dinner with the new VP and she is going to be great!)

Amidst the reports of the Bishop and other synod staff and ministry teams were two teaching sessions led by The Rev. Dr. Kathryn Kleinhans, Professor of Religion at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa who spoke about Luther's Large and Small Catechisms. She emphasized that Luther said "Jesus is a gift, a present that God has given you that is your own." She pointed out that Luther uses many personal pronouns in the catechisms (like "me," "my," "I," "mine,") stressing that faith is personal, but NOT private. The communal/community aspect of our life and faith is very important. Our vocation is a way of sharing God's gift by serving others. She also shared that Luther consistently refers to government as one of God's good gifts. In her second address, she discussed Baptism and its implications as to how we live out our callings using film clips from *The Godfather* and *The Shawshank Redemption*. (Ask Joy about these.) Luther said that "the summary and substance of the entire gospel is faith in God and love of the neighbor." Loving our neighbor is part of what it means to be made in the image of God.

There was a surprise deacon installation at the assembly. (See "What is a deacon?" article.) This may not sound like a big deal, but the synod has not really recognized lay rostered leaders as a whole group for many years, so Marlane Druckenmiller and I were very pleased with this acknowledgement.

Two resolutions were passed, one regarding a Pastoral Care Provider program to help with the shortage of pastors in the synod, and the other submitted by Pastor Frey on encouraging our government to continue to support care for the environment.

Although we (Pastor Frey, Pastor Carl and Lois Wenzel, and Joy Gerhart) were in the home of the largest indoor water slide, did not partake of the water sports, but did enjoy the fantastic worship, interesting speakers and beautiful African décor. The Holy Spirit is very active in the congregations of our synod and we have good news about Jesus to share with everyone!



Save the date!

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

Fall Apple Festival

Saturday, October 7

Crop Hunger Walk & Church Picnic

Sunday, October 8

SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION!!

The Social Ministry Committee is collecting school supplies for students at the Daniel Boone Middle School.

- *1 inch three ring binders
- *1 ½ inch three ring binders
- *2 inch three ring binders
- *Tab dividers (5 or more tabs)
- *3 prong two pocket folders

*The above items indicated with an asterisk are needed the most.

They could also use a few of the following:

- Pencil cases
- Colored pencils
- Pens
- Pencils
- Book socks or book covers

THANKS FROM CONNIE HUNTER.....

Thank you to everyone for your concern and caring, all the wonderful cards, prayers, visits and phone calls. Because I know that God's love is always with me-- Every day, Everywhere, Every moment.

*God Bless,
Connie*

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: Rob Edinger, Barry Eidell, Vicci Eidell, Blaire Eidell, Elena Eidell, Brooke Eidell, Tammy Eisenhard, Myla Eisenhard, Briella Eisenhard, Calla Eisenhard. 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: : Kathy Anderson, Cesar Bartra, Robert Bonetz, Dorothy Brown, Jeannie Crass, Audrey Crone, Ann Dollhopf, Michael Dotterer, Amy Dougherty, Helmut Fischer, Dave Focht, Meg Ford, June Geiger, Mary Jane Greusel, Judy Gross, Dave Hackett, Michael Haring, Marie Hausman, Ed Horning, Connie Hunter, Jack Keenan, Marie Kershaw, Daniel Light, Donna Meloy, Dorothy Miller, Laurel Miller, Carol Pearson, Beth Porreca, Phil Radabaugh, Mike Reinert, June Rhoads, Gerald Rohrbach, Richard Schneider, Calvin Sheeler, Steven Spitko, Tom Vroman, Joan Wendel, Darlene Wilson, family and friends of Joanne Ferreri, Clint Rohrbach, Steve Bonetz, William Clark, and all others listed below and those we name in our hearts: Alexa, Amy Adam, Delphine Altland, Bryan B., Mary B., Steve Baldwin, Jake Beil, Betty Breidegan, Tom Campbell, Don Charlesworth, Ron Christman, Alicea Cook, Jeffrey Cremi, Kimmy Cremi, Mr. & Mrs. Davidson, Linda Domergue, Mary Ellen Eidell, Cindy Fake, Melissa Flannery, Joan Fleming, Joanne Foulk, Ida Gilbert, Ron Glaser, Judy Grabowicz, Robert Graeff, Gene Grubbs, Steve Hackett, Mike Harris, Rose Harris, June Henninger, Sarah High, Richard Hoar, Marie Hoar, Sue Keay, Todd Kelly, Jim Kline, Marshall Korbeil, Cindy Kurtz, Jack Lebo, Gary Leister, Nikkie Leuthe, Vinnie Lubrano, Gloria Lutz, Lewis M., Marianne, John Maicher, Ronald McCarraher, Adrianna Marchewski, Charles Marquette, Jr., Donna McCarthy, Eleanor McKeon, Gina Meloy, Lucille Muller, Katie Murdza, Sandy Murphy, Ron Mutter, Carol Nocera, Gail Norris, Richard Pool, Heather Powers, Kay Protesto, Patti Pyle, Arletta Reisch, Carole Rhoades, Jocelyn Rice, Gabriel Schulze, Carol Sherman, Allison Shirker, Jacob Speakman, Dale Szajek, Stephanie Szajek, Jeanie Templin, Jay Trauger, Sandy Wamsher, Millard Watson, Cecile Wedershoven, Lee Wendel, Sherri Weston, Lulu Yocum, Christopher Youse, Parker Youse, homebound— Geraldine Barbone*, Jennie Clouser, Grace Frey, Jan Haas, Pearl Miller, Laura Schmale, Alma Shirey, Patsy Smale. *Non-member



7/1	Denise Millard	7/14	Connie Hunter
7/2	Keely Woodruff		Mason Rotelli
7/3	Bruce Musselman	7/17	Zachary Coyle
7/4	Aubrey Braun		Janice Miller
	Tyler Cloutier	7/18	Jordan Koury
	Hunter Konarski		Emily Ridge
7/5	Ed Chroscinski	7/19	Ed Berger
7/6	Jeanette Root		Lorrie Monroe
7/8	Ashley Bonetz	7/20	Kris Poole
	Susan Kubovsak	7/21	Janice Haas
7/9	Todd DePrefontaine		Vienna Shober
	Autumn Hampton	7/22	Pat Oxenford
	Grant Shober		Marley Yambor
	Gregory Shober	7/23	Stella Boyd
7/10	Kim Koury	7/24	Courtney Gougler
	Cindy Matosky	7/26	Kyle Vonderlinden
	Lynwood Weil	7/27	Charles Burns, Jr.
7/12	Allen Hetzell	7/28	Zachary Gougler
7/13	Tiana Gallagher		Sue Prizer
	Bonnie Topur	7/29	Carlene Yerger
7/14	David Bennis	7/30	Victoria Bennis
	Franklin Brown, Jr.	7/31	Ruth Grim

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO –

David & Victoria Bennis	7/3	13 yrs.
Tatum & Kris Poole	7/3	13 yrs.
Russ & Diane Hartline	7/5	20 yrs.
Dave & Danielle Walt	7/5	20 yrs.
Mark & Susan Eisenhuth	7/9	23 yrs.
John & Emily Levenoood	7/10	13 yrs.
David & Lindsey Yoder	7/10	7 yrs.
William & Rose Stalneckner	7/11	47 yrs.
Stuart & Rosalynda Crichton	7/14	10 yrs.
Duane & Cindy Dominick	7/18	36 yrs.

Nick & Heather Freitag	7/18	8 yrs.
Gene & Nancy Stewart	7/18	17 yrs.
Albert & Brigitte Northrup	7/19	14 yrs.
Pr. Greg & Wendy Frey	7/24	24 yrs.
Joel & Bonnie Steever	7/24	46 yrs.
Darvin & Mary Levensgood	7/25	58 yrs.



Oops! ...Omitted last month...
 Matthew & Adrienne Stumhofer 6/1 4 yrs.

--YTD Giving thru May, 2017 --

	<u>Jan-May, 2016</u>	<u>Jan-May, 2017</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>% chg.</u>
Offerings	\$ 150,321	\$ 150,703	382	.3
Renovation Contr.	\$ 34,459	42,516	8,057	23.4
Total Giving	\$ 184,780	\$ 193,219	\$ 8,439	4.3

Mortgage Balance **\$505,268.45 ****

**Due to a \$200,000 bequest from Alton Brown, the balance on our mortgage has gone down considerably. This \$200,000 principal payment will also save us a great deal of interest.

We are grateful to Alton for remembering St. Paul's in his will with this generous gift to St. Paul's Renovation Fund.

WE NEED MORE CANS FOR FLOWER DELIVERIES. Please bring in clean 46 oz. metal cans used for juice or other food. Also if you receive flowers delivered to you from the church we would appreciate having the cans returned so they can be used again. Thank you!

HOPEWELL LOVE MEAL - We are once again sponsoring a meal for Hopewell Love, taking place this year on Tuesday, July 11th, and we are in need of food donations and volunteers. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex with a list of items needed, and also to help prepare the meal on the Sunday before and serve it that Tuesday. If you have any questions contact Jim at jsarro27@gmail.com

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 8 & 10:30 AM—Holy Comm.	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i> Office closed. 	5 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study	6	7	1 6 PM—Holy Comm. 8 6 PM—Holy Comm.
9 8 & 10:30—Worship	10	11 Quilting 9:30—Bazaar crafts 2 PM--TOPS	12 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study	13	14	15 6 PM—Holy Comm.
16 8 & 10:30 AM—Holy Comm.	17	18 Quilting 9:30—Bazaar crafts 2 PM--TOPS	19 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study	20 7:30 PM—Crime Watch	21	22 6 PM—Holy Comm.
23 8 & 10:30—Worship	24	25 Quilting 9:30—Bazaar crafts 2 PM--TOPS	26 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study	27	28	29 6 PM—Holy Comm.
30 8 & 10:30—Worship 9 AM—Apple Fest. Mtg.	31	Money Counters 8:00 10:30 Joanne Guss Ray DiSandro Wayne Grace Joanne Guss Rhonda Maloney Arlene Hildebeitel		Council persons in charge of services— Rhonda Maloney, Frank Jablonski, Karla Rosenbusch		