

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
548 OLD SWEDE ROAD
DOUGLASSVILLE PA 19518**

Telephone (610) 385-6616

Fax (610) 385-6690

www.stpaulsdougllassville.com

info@stpaulsdougllassville.com

The Rev. Gregory W. Frey, Pastor



MAY, 2017

Stay Woke.....

The Gospel of Matthew's description of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection is probably the most amazing of the four distinct accounts. There are two earthquakes, a dramatic tearing of the temple curtain from top to bottom, Roman tomb guards (monitors); a lot of unique material. But the one detail that really grabs me is this, At that moment (Jesus' death) the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After (Jesus) resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. (Matthew 27:51-53)

My kids might say, "An earthquake that opens graves and the bodies of the saints raising from the dead and walking around after the resurrection? That's *lit!*" The term *lit* used to mean only ignited. Recently, it was a slang term for intoxication. Now it means exciting. What could be more exciting than people (non-zombie) rising out of graves and walking around town? Yet we preachers tend to ignore this detail of the story. Go figure!

Perhaps we might pause on this little gem in Matthew and try to get at its significance by considering another new expression working its way into our lexicon. There is an expression becoming popular on social media "*woke*." To be *woke* or to *stay woke* is to be awoken to issues of social justice, class, racial or gender privilege, forms of oppression, etc. Individuals are *woke* when

they begin to see and sympathize with issues going on around them which they had never noticed or payed attention to before. To get *woke* is to become active in acknowledging and working to address issues of inequality particularly of the powerful over the powerless.

As you can imagine corporations are eager to tap into this movement and *get woke* in order to appeal (and sell products) to the social media generation. Pepsi recently tried this in a controversial ad featuring a young celebrity joining a march and offering a Pepsi to a police officer, I suppose as a gesture to bridge the divide. The commercial didn't go over so well probably because it looked as ridiculous as it sounds. But it also failed because corporate manipulation of culture is one of the things *the woke*, wake to. (Also, isn't there another cola product that might more easily be associated with *woke*?)

I have to admit I like the expression *woke*. I think it is a good description of what happens when someone realizes that many the advantages some are born into, the things unconsciously benefitted from and taken for granted, are disadvantages for others. There are privileges I have done nothing to merit or deserve which I take for granted that are simply not available to others in my community and around the world. I can shrug these off as my luck for being fortunately born or I can be dissatisfied with the inequity. My inclination is the shrug. But my daily relationship with Jesus challenges my self-satisfied complacency. I have to be *woke* to these injustices and dissatisfied with their existence.

Was Jesus *woke*? I think he was or I wouldn't have brought it up. In the Gospel of Luke Jesus gave his very first sermon in his home town of Nazareth. He read the following words from the prophet Isaiah, "*The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners...*" As a foundation sermon for ministry, this

is pretty *woke*! It bears mentioning that Jesus' listeners were not impressed. They tried to throw him off a cliff in response to his *woke* message.

But the *woke* Jesus of Luke is tame compared to Matthew. In Matthew, Jesus' death has an immediate, physical impact. The moment Jesus dies the earth itself convulses and the shockwave of Jesus breathing his last shatters even the rocks, splits open graves and wakes the sleeping saints who encounter disciples in Jerusalem. I don't care what you say, that's pretty lit, or exciting, or whatever is the proper phrase. What Jesus did on the cross *woke* the dead around him and caused them to move about the city. I will acknowledge that I am not entirely sure what this is meant to signify. But in light of Jesus' inaugural sermon it seems to me to contain the call for followers of Jesus, the saints, to get *woke* too.

There is plenty of context for this provided by Matthew. It is just two chapters earlier, in Matthew 25, that Jesus describes God's great global renewal program culminating in all the ways Jesus could be encountered in the days after his resurrection and ascension. Jesus will be found in the transaction of love with: the hungry, the thirsty, the sick, the foreigner, and the prisoner. The passage concludes, "*Just as you did (or did not do) it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did (or did not do) it to me.*" (Matthew 25:40)

When Jesus dies dead saints are *woke*. As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection in this Easter season, let us be *woke* also. *Woke* to the ways Jesus is still among us, the places the risen Jesus said he would be. *Woke* to the privileges we may have taken for granted which we might instead use to the advantage of those not so privileged. *Woke* to the ways the resurrection of Jesus is about Christ conquering death, rising from the grave, vanquishing sin, death and the devil. Let us, the living, get *woke* like the saints in Matthew's Gospel in response to Jesus' death and resurrection and allow the risen Lord to appear through our lives. The Lord is

risen. He is risen indeed! Get *woke*, stay *woke*, all you saints of God!

Pastor Frey

A NOTE FROM JOY.....

Hello everyone! Thank you so much for the warm greetings and encouragement. I am looking forward to getting to know you all and am working hard on remembering names. You are really blessed with this beautiful building, great staff, and congregational leaders. I have lots to explore and learn. I'm especially eager to meet and get to know the youth here, and I will have had a few opportunities by the time you read this. When you're in the building be sure to stop by and introduce yourself to me.

--WORSHIP IN MAY--

May 6	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
May 7	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School
May 13	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
May 14	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School
May 20	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
May 21	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School
May 27	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
May 28	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School

FROM THE PARISH RECORDS:

New members received:

Thomas Beil	David & Diane Stauffer
Brad & Mindy Haring	Brandon Strain
Richard Kaufman	Wendi Strain
Jennifer Knabb	Bonnie Topur
Gregory & Christina Shober	

Funerals:

April 1 – Patrick Woodruff

April 15 – Ethel S. Friedman

Contributions to the **Agape Fund** in memory of **Patrick Woodruff** given by--

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mary Graefe | Edward Kurek |
| Carol DeLong | Staff of Warwick Middle School |
| Gerald & Jeane Rohrbach | Wendy & Mark Gray |
| Calvin & Ellen Sheeler | Paul Vassil |
| Gary & Cindy Weidner | Holly Kleimo |
| Jack & Jeane Serrian | Tim & Gerri Hollinger |
| Greg & Susie Kresge | Drew Hollinger |
| Brian & Rebecca Miller | Kyle Hollinger |
| Linda & Dick Peacock | Robert & Theresa McDonough |
| Larry & Amy Beans | Frank & Kathy Jablonski |
| Marie & Bill Gulliver | Gary & Debra Grube |
| Anna Brown | |

Contribution to the **Renovations Fund** in memory of **Franklin Brown** given by –

June Baer Gary & Cindy Weidner

MISSION TRIP BIRDSBORO

For the last three years, local businesses, non-profit organizations, and churches in the Birdsboro area have partnered together through "Mission Trip Birdsboro" to make a lasting difference in the lives of individuals and our community. This year the project will be held Wednesday, July 19 – Sunday, July 23. There will be an orientation session on July 16 and a celebration July 23.

Last year, 21 elderly, disabled, single parent, or needy homeowners were assisted. Retaining walls were built, trees removed, decks repaired, and homes were painted, power washed, and given tlc. Improvements were also made at the Birdsboro Elementary Center, two community parks and Shady Hollow's Assisted Riding. In all, 70 volunteers, 26 business sponsors, four churches, three non-profit

organizations, and the Borough of Birdsboro participated. St. Paul's Lutheran Church will be joining the effort this year for the first time.

The focus of the mission remains the same as in the previous years:

- Assisting homeowners in need within a 15 minute radius of Birdsboro
- Making improvements to community centers in Birdsboro and surrounding areas
- Deepening the faith of every volunteer so that our community may continue to receive the blessing well beyond the project.

We need your help:

- Make the site selection team aware of people living within a 15 minute drive of Birdsboro who could use help with home repairs.
- Volunteer one, several or all days.
- Join in the monthly planning meetings held at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Birdsboro.
- Monetary donations are accepted and appreciated.

Contact Dave Renninger for more information at 610-401-3655 or DaveTheASC@aol.com.

RELAY FOR LIFE ~ Saturday, May 20.....

Nearly 100 teams will set up sites around the track of the Daniel Boone High School, raising funds for the American Cancer Society, during this annual community event.

This year's theme is board games. For the first time, St. Paul's will have a team, and our theme is Clue. The opening ceremony will begin at Noon. We encourage all members of the congregation to stop by, visit our site, and walk a lap. There are concession stands and games, all to raise funds. We are proud to participate in this community event. If you join us, please wear your St. Paul's spiritwear.

The Survivor and Caregiver laps are at 6:00 pm, and the Luminaria ceremony will be at 9:00 pm. We also invite you to join our team at www.relayforlife.org/padanielboone



CLUE ROOM BASKETS

After Worship Services Saturday, May 6 - Sunday, May 14, we will have a variety of baskets in the Narthex. Each basket's theme is a room from Clue; the Ballroom, the Dining Room, the Conservatory, etc. Raffle tickets will be sold for \$1 each, or 6 tickets for \$5. We will also be selling Luminaria bags for \$10.

YOUTH NEWS.....

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



For the May SPLAT meeting, we will hiking Monocacy Hill Trail, on Sunday, May 7th (one week earlier than usual meeting since following week is Mother's Day.) Join us for lunch after the 10:30 service and then we will head over to Monocacy Hill (weather permitting) for a hike. If raining, we will plan an indoor activity instead. Sign-up sheet on table in narthex or contact mrs. m. (610-427-9384 or cmatosky105@gmail.com)

AMITY FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE invites everyone to enjoy the entertainment at their meeting on Thursday, May 4, at 1:00 P.M. The Berks Encore Chorus is back by popular demand.

BASKET SOCIAL – Friday, May 5

- 6:45 P.M. – Doors open
- 7:30 P.M. – Begin drawing tickets
Winner or a representative must be present.
- 7:50 P.M. – Dessert break
- 8:00 P.M. – Finish drawing tickets

Tickets are \$7. (25 chances) or 3 tickets for \$20 (75 chances)

Thanks to all who donated baskets!!

CONGREGATIONAL WORK DAY – Saturday, May 6, 8 AM—noon

(Rain date May 13)

Bring your shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows, shears, etc. Come when you can; leave when you must.



The Social Ministry Committee thanks all those who contributed items for the Easter food baskets and also those who brought items for the Amity Food Pantry. Thanks, also, to Rick Centrella for delivering the collected food (200 items) to the pantry.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL.....

All superheros are invited to join us June 25-29 for a week of music, fun, science, games, stories, and more. Discover your strength in God. The registration form is available on our website, stpaulsdouglassville.com. For more information, contact Michele Fisher at memomj@ptd.net.



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.



The graduates will be recognized on Sunday, June 11.

--YTD Giving thru March, 2017 --

	<u>Jan-Mar, 2016</u>	<u>Jan-Mar, 2017</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>% chg.</u>
Offerings	\$ 91,786	\$ 87,125	--4,661	-5.1
Renovation Contr.	\$ 20,382	29,816	9,433	56.1
Total Giving	\$ 112,168	\$ 116,941	\$ 4,773	4.0
Mortgage Balance		\$725,623.57		

WE'RE DECORATING WITH RED GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST.....

On Pentecost, June 4, 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 28.

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: Carol Delong, Tracy Detwiler, McKenna Detwiler, Brynn Detwiler, Leah Detwiler, William Dilks, Ray DiSandro, Carolyn DiSandro, Aimee DiSandro, Adam DiSandro, John Dollhopf, Elizabeth Dollhopf, William Dollhopf, Patrick Dollhopf, Cindy Dominick. 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, Jake Beil, Dave Focht, Joanne Foulk, Michael Haring, Jack Keenan, Jim Kubovsak, Gary Leister, Daniel Light, Vinnie Lubrano, Marianne, Dorothy Miller, Donn Moorman, Stephanie & Nathan Morath, Carol Pearson, Heather Powers, June Rhoads, Joan Wendel, family and friends of Dennis Schaeffer, Fred Rekstis, Michael Giorgio, Linda Troil, Sue Gaspara, and all others listed below and those we name in our hearts: Alexa, Amy Adam, Delphine Altland, Bryan B., Mary B., Steve Baldwin, Vivian Bolles, Donnie Boyer, Betty Breidegan, Tom Campbell, Don Charlesworth, Ron Christman, Alicea Cook, Jeffrey Cremi, Kimmy Cremi, Audrey Crone, Mr. & Mrs. Davidson, Linda Domergue, Mary Ellen Eidell, Cindy Fake, Joanne Ferreri, Melissa Flannery, Joan Fleming, Robert Geiger, Ida Gilbert, Ron Glaser, Judy Grabowicz, Robert Graeff, Gene Grubbs, Steve Hackett, Mike Harris, Rose Harris, Christine Hartline, Matthew Heisey, June Henninger, Sarah High, Richard Hoar, Marie Hoar, Sue Keay, Todd Kelly, Jim Kline, Marshall Korbeil, Cindy Kurtz, Jack Lebo, Liane Lefever, Nikkie Leuthe, Gloria Lutz, Lewis M., John Maicher, Ronald McCarragher, Tricia Magner, Adrianna Marchewski, Charles Marquette, Jr., Donna McCarthy, Eleanor McKeon, Frank McManus, Gina Meloy, Lucille Muller, Katie Murdza, Sandy Murphy, Ron Mutter, Carol Nocera, Gail Norris, Deb Petras, Richard Pool, Kay Protesto, Patti Pyle, Arletta Reisch, Carole Rhoades, Jocelyn Rice, Clint Rohrbach, Bob Schmidt, Gabriel Schulze, Carol Sherman, Allison Shirker, Jacob Speakman, Al Suglia, Dale Szajek, Stephanie Szajek, Jeanie Templin, Jay Trauger, Sandy Wamsher, Millard Watson, Cecile Wedershoven, Lee Wendel, Sherri Weston, Ruth Ann Williams, 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
 Note there are Prayer Request Cards in the pew racks.

Happy Birthday!

5/1	Brittany Cloutier	5/15	Carl Yerger
	Calla Eisenhard	5/17	Rich Bowersox
	Sherry Rhoads		Heather Hennessey
	Jim Trout		Drew Musselman
5/2	Brian Hicks	5/19	Marianne Graefe
	Janet Musselman		Zachary Hasara
5/3	Tiffany Cappellano		Linda Heisey
	Alexander Crichton		Howard Hunter
	Darlene Light		Ashley Kutz
5/4	Lily Dougherty		Tim Simmons
	Kayleigh Johnson	5/20	Betty Brumbach
	Anne Trout		Mya Saylor
5/5	Diane Davis	5/21	Seth Szajek
	Delaney McCleary	5/22	Russell Burns
	Tatum Poole		Nathaniel Crichton
5/7	Judy Gross		Riley Krichten
	Lucas Gross	5/23	Susan Eisenhuth
	Claudia McCalicher		Apryll Ware
	Ronald Rhoads	5/24	John Bologa
5/8	Bailey Heisey		Jennifer Matosky
	Jack Prizer	5/25	Colin Hicks
	Darrell Reitmeyer		Carter Longstaff
5/9	Reese Muschick	5/26	Jan Bause
5/10	Albert Northrup	5/28	Baylee Dominick
	Riley Yetter		Sieglinde Fretz
5/11	Linda Kiak		Laine Kasdras
	Andrew Weiler		Rachel Weiler
5/12	William Gleeson	5/29	Matt Mengel
	Danica Hershey	5/30	Marsha Springel
5/15	Brigitte Northrup		Dale Szajek
	Joshua Secord	5/31	Harlan Swavely
	Katherine Trout		Scott Walley

HAPPY ANIVERSARY TO –

Tim & Bonnie Simmons	5/3	37 yrs.
Ray & Pat Oxenford	5/5	55 yrs.
Charles & Anne Weiser	5/9	47 yrs.
Fred & Mary Hoffert	5/11	49 yrs.
Larry & Eileen Swavely	5/14	62 yrs.
David & Deb Smith	5/16	13 yrs.
James & Renee Waring	5/16	10 yrs.
Ralph & Robin Rohrbach	5/19	33 yrs.
Richard & Debbie Konarski	5/21	23 yrs.
Jim & Kim Sarro	5/21	23 yrs.
Barry & Carol Gross	5/22	46 yrs.
Jim & Judy Trout	5/22	49 yrs.
Nathan & Elizabeth Haring	5/24	13 yrs.
Keith & April Royer	5/24	31 yrs.
Charles & Joyce Drey	5/27	56 yrs.
Kevin Fisher & Rob Edinger	4/11	2 yrs. (omitted last month)

SOUTH DAKOTA MISSION TRIP

Members of our congregation will be traveling to the Lakota Nation reservation September 16 - 22, volunteering their time with construction and maintenance. Your donations to help offset travel expenses are appreciated.



For more information, contact Pastor Frey or Dave Renninger

OPEN SUNDAY TO SPONSOR THE FLOWERS & BULLETINS—May 7...
Cost for flowers is \$34; \$25 for bulletin. Call the church office if interested.

COCONUT CREAM PIE SALE

Friday, May 12, 2017

Large--\$10

Small \$8

A great dessert for Mother's Day on May 14. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex with a May 7 deadline. Or call Anna Brown at (610) 582-4598.

Pick up time will be announced later.

A TRIBUTE TO MOTHERS

On Your Special Day

God bless you, Mother, on this special day
For always being lovable and dear,
For thoughtful things you find to do and say
That mean so much to others all the year.

For patience and for willingness to share
Whatever comes, in joy and sorrow too,
For thoughtfulness and tender, loving care.
God bless you, Mother, all your lifetime through.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



*"Honor ... your
mother, as
the LORD
your God
has
commanded
you"*

Deuteronomy 5:16

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday								
	1 7 PM—Christian Ed.	2 Quilting 9:30—Bazaar crafts 2 PM--TOPS 6:15 PM--CDC	3 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30--Bible Study	4 Noon—Amity Fr. Circle 7 PM--Choir	5 6:45 PM—Basket Social	6 6 PM—Holy Comm.								
7 8 & 10:30-Holy Com. 9:15—Sunday School 9:30—Finance Com. SPLAT after 10:30	8 10 AM—Labyrinth Gr. 7 PM—Pastoral Care	9 Quilting 9:30—Bazaar crafts 2 PM--TOPS	10 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30--Bible Study 6:15—Executive Com 7 PM--Council	11 7 PM—Choir 7 PM—Prayer Shawl	12	13 6 PM—Holy Comm.								
14 8 & 10:30—Worship 9:15—Sunday School	15 6 PM—Bible Study	16 Quilting 9:30—Bazaar crafts 2 PM--TOPS	17 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30--Bible Study	18 7 PM--Choir 7:30 PM—Crime Watch	19	20 7:30 AM--Property 6 PM—Holy Comm.								
21 8 & 10:30-Holy Com. 9:15—Sunday School 9:15—Social Ministry	22	23 Quilting 9:30—Bazaar crafts 2 PM--TOPS 7 PM—Women's Gr.	24 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30--Bible Study Pre-School Graduation 7 PM—Worship & Music	25 7 PM--Choir	26	27 6 PM—Holy Comm.								
28 8 & 10:30—Worship 9:15—Sunday School 9:15—Fellowship Comm.	29  <i>Memorial Day</i>	30 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS	31 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30--Bible Study	<p style="text-align: center;">Money counters</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">8 AM</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">10:30 AM</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Deb Longstaff</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Bill Kutz</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Tom Longstaff</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Angie Kutz</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Howard Hunter</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Brooke Eidell</td> </tr> </table>		8 AM	10:30 AM	Deb Longstaff	Bill Kutz	Tom Longstaff	Angie Kutz	Howard Hunter	Brooke Eidell	<p>Council persons in charge— Tom Longstaff Jeff Duplak</p>
8 AM	10:30 AM													
Deb Longstaff	Bill Kutz													
Tom Longstaff	Angie Kutz													
Howard Hunter	Brooke Eidell													