



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

JANUARY, 2018

It is kind of amazing that Peter and Paul are so often associated with one another considering that the book of Acts and Paul's own letters describe a somewhat troubled relationship between the two. The book of Acts (Acts 15) describes the tension in the early church over the issue of Gentile (non Jewish) admission in to the church. Some believed (Jesus' [half?] brother James), essentially, that Gentiles needed to become Jews first, then become Christians. Others (Paul), thought Gentiles could come straight into Christianity. Peter was a flip flopper on this issue and that drove Paul nuts! Paul recounted "opposing Peter in his face!" (Galatians 2:11) and sarcastically referred to Peter as a shaky "pillar" of the church. You certainly get the sense that these two apostles had a hard time seeing eye to eye.

So it is interesting that THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY falls on the week between two important church festivals: THE CONFESSION OF ST. PETER (January 18) and THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL (January 25). There are a lot of adjectives one might apply to Christians but unified, historically, has not been one of them.

Having noted the irony I have to report that my experience of Christian unity in this community runs counter to the historical trend. We actually have a high degree of unity among our churches in Amity and Birdsboro. You may or may not be aware that I meet monthly with my clergy colleagues and very much enjoy our meetings. The ministerial group is called the Southeast Berks Ministerium and our meetings are more than just collegial. We actually do a lot. We organize and support the Crop Walk which benefits disaster victims and refugees around the world and people in difficulty in our own community. We plan and

guide students to lead a baccalaureate service for graduating seniors at Daniel Boone High School and we give a yearly \$500 scholarship to a Daniel Boone senior. We participate in special worship services together throughout the year and provide monthly worship services in three of our community nursing homes. We support the two area food pantries, the *Community Table* meal in Birdsboro and *Hopewell Love* which helps community members in crisis. We divide up the schools to provide meals to needy families in the district for the holidays. And we do other things too! All in all, I think we get a lot done and we enjoy working together.

Now, if we were to make a list of traditional theological "sticking points" to discuss I suppose we could find a lot of things to quarrel about. But we have, instead, chosen to focus on where we can witness to Jesus through our care and service and leave the theological debates to someone else. It works well for us, and maybe it approximates what Jesus was praying for when he prayed that, "They may be one so that the world may believe." (John 17:21)

So I propose that we celebrate THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY, January 18 through the 25th, by giving God thanks for the unity possible in our service to one another. And please remember the South East Berks Ministerium in your prayers and pray that our churches and ministers may continue to join our faith and energies in serving our community as Jesus has clearly called us to do.

--Pastor Frey

ADULT STUDY: CHRISTIAN JOB DESCRIPTION

Adult Study in January, Monday January 15th, we will talk about Martin Luther's reworking of the doctrine of Christian Vocation. On Martin Luther King Jr Day, a day of service, we might ask the question, if we are justified by grace and not by what we do why do anything at all? The answer might surprise you! Dinner is at 6:00 PM and the study begins about 6:30 PM.

--WORSHIP IN JANUARY--

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

FROM THE PARISH RECORDS.....

Baptism – 12/17/17 – Weston David Zepp, son of Justin & Lynn (Rinehimer) Zepp

THOUGHTS ON CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY by Joy Gerhart.....

I'm sure you all know that the Christmas season extends past Christmas Day, which seems to be the last day radio stations play Christmas music. We celebrate Christmas until January 6 when Epiphany begins. These are the twelve days of Christmas. Even though Snopes says it is not true that the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was used by the Catholic church as a way to secretly teach the catechism in a time of persecution, I still think it is interesting to hear what each thing supposedly stood for and ask myself if I know what each of these means. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus, the Son of God, who in Matthew 23:37 and Luke 13:34 laments over Jerusalem saying "How often would I have sheltered you under my wings, as a hen does for her chicks, but you would not..." The two turtle doves stand for the Old and New Testament, three French hens stand for Faith, Hope and Charity (or love), the Theological Virtues (1 Corinthians 13:13), and four calling

birds stand for the four Gospels or four evangelists who are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. How are you doing so far? Five Golden Rings are the first five books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch," or the Torah, the books of the law in Judaism, but the law is understood as an important gift from God establishing our covenant relationship. Can you name all five books? Six geese a-laying are the six days of creation, seven swans a-swimming are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit or the seven sacraments Catholicism celebrates. You know we accept two sacraments—Baptism and Holy Communion. The others like marriage, confirmation, ordination, etc. we call rites. Do you know what the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are? (See 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.) Eight maids a-milking are the eight beatitudes. You can find them in Matthew 5:1-11. How many of the "Blessed are those..." do you know? Nine ladies dancing are the fruit of the Holy Spirit (see Galatians 5:23-24). "The Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control." Ten lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments. Can you name them? See Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5! Eleven pipers piping are the eleven faithful disciples (that means Judas is the unfaithful one). See Matthew 10:2-4, Mark 3:16-19, and Luke 6:14-16. Twelve drummers drumming are twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed. Take a moment and look up the Bible passages to read them for yourself.

Now on to the church season of Epiphany. Have you ever had an epiphany? Has a light bulb lighted in your head or have you suddenly had a great revelation or idea? The day of Epiphany is connected with the wise men who found the young Jesus by following the bright star. The star guided them and light can help us see our way or see and understand things more clearly. I think of the season of Epiphany as a season where the scriptures try to help us see who Jesus is a little more clearly. In the Baptism of Jesus in Mark 1 :4-11 we learn from the voice of God that Jesus is God's own Son with whom God is pleased. In John 1:43-51, Nathanael confesses that Jesus is the Son of God. In Mark 1:21-28 we see that even the evil spirits know who Jesus is, and in Mark 1:29-39 we see that he has the power to heal Peter's mother-in-law and many others who are sick and who have demons. At the very end of Epiphany comes one of my favorite passages—the Transfiguration—Mark 9:2-9—where the voice of God declares that Jesus is God's own dear Son to Peter, James, and John. They also see Jesus talking to Moses and Elijah which reveals that Jesus is not your ordinary person.

This Epiphany think about who Jesus is and how important Jesus is to us. Remember we call Jesus the Light of the World, the one who guides our path, the one who sheds light on the truth.

I won't go into how odd it is that Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day and Easter is on April Fool's Day, but those are easy ways to remember the dates that will be coming up.

ADULT CLASS STUDIES ISLAM.....

Beginning on Sunday, January 7, the Adult class which meets during the Sunday School hour in the library will study Islam through the use of some documentary films on DVD, "Discover Islam," which Pastor Frey received when he attended an ELCA ecumenical celebration of the Reformation on Oct. 31. The 26-30 minute videos include study guides for discussion. The topics include: Islam: Faith and History, Islam: an American Faith, Women in Islam, African Americans and Islam, Islam: A Faith Hijacked, and Christians and Islam. This course should be of interest to those who know little about Islam and even those who do have some knowledge about this major world religion. Joy Gerhart will facilitate the discussion. You don't have to attend all the classes to follow the DVD's—just come to as many as you can.

SPLAT MEETS ON JAN. 14

We will mix work and pleasure as we enjoy ice cream (maybe even banana splits!) and work on a service project. The plan is to make health kits for Safe Berks, formerly Berks Women in Crisis. We will start with lunch around 11:30 after the 10:30 service and then work on the service project until 1:30 or so. We should have time to play some games, too. Please sign up on the SPLAT bulletin board. Friends are welcome!



A "Think Summer" Event, sponsored by the East Berks Mission District and Bear Creek Camp will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Kutztown on Sunday, January 28 from 2:15 to 5:00 pm. We would leave here by 1:45 to get to Kutztown. The event will include games, songs, crafts and a promotion of Bear Creek Camp. Children and youth in grades 1-12 and parents are welcome to attend.

You need to register for this free event by January 23. Please call Joy Gerhart if you are interested.

WOMEN'S GROUP ON JANUARY 23.....

Come to expand your knowledge of the Civil War from a real Civil War Re-enactor. Dave Culp, the brother-in-law of Betty Clark, has been involved in Civil War re-enacting with his wife Kathy for 30 years. We will be fascinated by his knowledge of the Civil War, see some of his Civil War artifacts, and see him in his uniform—he plays a confederate soldier. Sign up on the sheet in the narthex so we know who will be coming. Men are certainly welcome, too!!!

Be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, February 24,



starting at 9:00 am, when we plan to spend the day watching the movie *The Shack* and discussing it in the morning, then spending the afternoon learning more about the 23rd Psalm and making a special bracelet. There will be a sign-up sheet to help us order bracelet supplies. (Bracelets will cost about \$20 for materials.)

Do you have ideas for future Women's group topics? We will have a planning meeting on Tuesday, February 27 at 7:00 pm. Please come and help us brainstorm and plan!

VOLUNTEER FAIR.....

Looking for ways to make a difference? Join us Monday, January 15 in the Fellowship Hall from 11 am - 2 pm. Over 25 local organizations - that rely on volunteers - will be here to inform of their mission, their upcoming events, and ways they make our community stronger. Learn what their volunteers do and how you can help. Volunteers don't get paid ~ not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless. There will be giveaways and door prizes.

REGISTER FOR PRESCHOOL.....

Preschool registration for the 2018-2019 school year will open on January 11, 2018 for church members. Morning sessions for both classes are from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The afternoon sessions for both classes are from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Three-year old classes meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Four-year old classes meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Please call 610-385-3333 or pick up a registration form in the Narthex beginning January 11, 2018.

We hope to see your child at preschool in the fall!



THANK YOU!!THANK YOU!!THANK YOU!!.....

From Betty Clark:
St. Paul's has to be the most generous church around! You always rally to help when called upon. I am delighted to report that as a result of your generosity we shipped 17 (!) tightly packed boxes to the Lakota Indians in SD on Mon., Dec. 11. You all reached into your hearts to fill

the needs of the Lakota children. Your gifts will make a big difference in the lives of so many! I was overwhelmed with the lovely donations - not just of goods but also money, which we really needed to ship those boxes!!!

God is great! I prayed the project would be met with your love and generosity and it certainly was! I cannot thank you enough! Because of your generosity many hands, heads and feet will be warmed this winter!

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From the Social Ministry Committee:

What a wonderful congregation. Put a list out and volunteers sign up to bring a variety of things to the church. Most items needed for our baskets for Christmas (as well as Easter and Thanksgiving) were promised on the first day the list was posted. Again, thank you. We would also like to thank Ms. Wendy and her class for providing special items for the baskets. Printed below is a letter from one of the recipients of a Thanksgiving basket.

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My family and I just wanted to take the time to thank you so very much for the Thanksgiving food basket you so graciously donated to us. I lost my job of 29 years the end of August and I am a single mom with three growing boys. So needless to say, this food basket is very much appreciated. God always provides in many ways and we just really appreciate this act of kindness provided by your church.

Thank you, again, and Happy Thanksgiving from our family to yours.

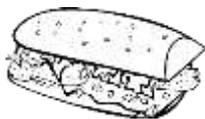
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING 4th GRADERS WHO RECEIVED THEIR FIRST COMMUNION ON NOV. 26.....

Callista Basile
Michael McCormick
Gryffin Cappellano
Christian Luo

Zachary Gouglar
Aubrey Ridge
Aimee DiSandro



HOAGIE SALE – Sunday, January 21, 9 AM—noon.....



There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for you to place your order.

All hoagies are made with generous amounts of meats. Pepper packs are optional. Deadline to order is Sunday, January 14.

All profits benefit Opportunity House.

AND THE WINNERS ARE ...



ANNOUNCING THE LUCKY WINNERS OF OUR BAZAAR RAFFLE.....

Thank you to everyone who sold tickets to family and friends for the raffle, everyone who purchased tickets and special thanks to Mary, Arlene, Gloria, Ann and Betty who sold the tickets to the congregation on Saturday nights

and Sunday mornings.

The following prizes were available for the raffle:

- Area rug, donated by My Dad's Flooring and won by Jenn Kochert
- Quilt top donated by Pat Oxenford and quilted by St. Paul's Quilters and won by Lisa Donaldson
- \$200 Gift Certificate donated by New Rhoads Transportation and won by Jeane Serrian
- Framed photograph donated by Dave Bause and won by Darlene Light
- Wine basket donated by Manatawny Creek Winery and won by Anna Gross
- Cedar chest donated by Cindy Manning and won by Michele Hensley
- Child's Table made and donated by Richard Christman and won by Karen Miller
- Primitive Art donated by Miko's Craft and won by Pat Roland
- Scholastic Book basket donated by St. Paul's CDC and won by Leah Kocher
- Gift basket donated by Hyres Pest Control and won by Marylynn Endy
- Basket of chocolates donated by Godiva chocolates and won by John Bealer

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: Gregory Godon, Norma Godon, Janice Goodman, Brian Gougler, Courtney Gougler, Zachary Gougler, Mackenzie Gougler, Judy Grabowicz, Wayne Grace, Lynn Grace, Guy Graefe, Marianne Graefe, Mary Graefe, Ted Graefe, Darryl Greenwood, Judi Greenwood. 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: Larry Swavely, Carol DeLong, Barbara DePrefontaine, Debbie Weiser, Richard Mulstay, Brian Marquette, Beverly McClurg, Brian Spitko, Lisa Bicer, Marie Hafer, Matt Scott, Cesar Bartra, Alyse Charlesworth, Dave Focht, Connie Hunter, Daniel Light, David Norman, Gerald Rohrbach, Calvin Sheeler, Ricky Young, family and friends of Chris Drey, Doris Stoltzfus, Joan Fleming, and all others listed below and those we name in our hearts: Alexa, Delphine Altland, Bryan B., Mary B., Mary Bauer, Betty Breidegan, Tom Campbell, Ron Christman, Jeannie Crass, Jeffrey Cremi, Kimmy Cremi, Mr. & Mrs. Davidson, Linda Domergue, Michael Dotterer, Mary Ellen Eidell, Cindy Fake, Mike Ferarra, Eleanor Geyer, Ida Gilbert, Ron Glaser, Judy Grabowicz, Robert Graeff, Mary Jane Greusel, Gene Grubbs, Steve Hackett, Michael Haring, Sharon Haring, Mike Harris, June Henninger, Sarah High, Richard Hoar, Marie Hoar, Sue Keay, Todd Kelly, Cindy Kurtz, Nikkie Leuthe, Vinnie Lubrano, Gloria Lutz, Lewis M., Marianne, John Maicher, Ronald McCarragher, Adrianna Marchewski, Charles Marquette, Jr., Donna McCarthy, Eleanor McKeon, Gina Meloy, Dorothy Miller, Haven Miller, Laurel Miller, Lucille Muller, Sandy Murphy, Ron Mutter, Gail Norris, Jeffrey Norris, Pauline, Beth Porreca, Heather Powers, Kay Protesto, Patti Pyle, Arletta Reisch, Nathan Resch, Carole Rhoades, June Rhoads, Mike Rhoads, Lori Rielly, Gabriel Schulze, Carol Sherman, Allison Shirker, Jacob Speakman, Steven Spitko, Betty Syphiewski, Dale Szajek, Stephanie Szajek, TJ, Jeanie Templin, Jay Trauger, Sandy Wamsher, Millard Watson, Lee Wendel, Sherri Weston, Darlene Wilson, Tom Yetto, homebound— Geraldine Barbone*, Jennie Clouser, Grace Frey, Jan Haas, Laura Schmale, Alma Shirey, Patsy Smale. *Non-member





1/1	Blair Eidell	1/20	Kay Bonslaver
1/3	Michael Hasara		Jeff Duplak
	Harper McCord		Abigail Eckstein
	Sydney Moody		John McCalicher
1/4	Barry Leier		Helene Wallauer
	Mary Lynagh	1/21	Kelly Mooney
	Laura Schmale		Jeffrey Sowers
1/5	Garrett Eisenhuth		Cindy Weidner
	Breylan Kupp	1/24	Sarah Bartra
1/7	Lida McManus		Kiara Ray
1/8	Larry Barr		Richard Talbott
1/11	Phyllis Harwood	1/25	Michele Hensley
1/12	Rebecca Kucharik		Aimee Luo
1/13	Diane Hartline	1/26	Anna Brown
	James Waring		Susan Murray
1/15	Kennedy Albright		Tim Oister
	Ruby Saylor		Patsy Smale
	Lynne Zepp	1/27	John Cappellano
1/16	Hayden Moyer		Nolan Tindall
	Brooks Yetter		Kennedy Yetter
1/18	Adrianna Cozzone	1/28	Garret Reinhardt
	Ray DiSandro		William Ridge IV
	Susanne Leier	1/29	Bonnie Simmons
	Connie Schittler		Jeffrey Sowers
	Meghan Stack	1/30	Josephine Reinhardt
1/19	Ruth McVey	1/31	David Zepp
	Jamie Trout		

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO –

Chester & Marsha Springel	1/13	17 yrs.
John & Ellen Buck	1/16	66 yrs.
LeRoy & Barbara DePrefontaine	1/19	61 yrs.

--YTD Giving thru November, 2017 –

	<u>Jan-Nov, 2016</u>	<u>Jan-Nov, 2017</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>% chg.</u>
Offerings	\$ 316,587	\$ 314,454	-2,132	-0.7
Renovation Contr.	<u>71,789</u>	<u>80,833</u>	9,043	12.6
Total Giving	\$ 388,376	\$ 394,787	\$ 6,411	1.6
Mortgage Balance		\$426,225.66		

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, and Facebook.

DINING CLUBS.....



We currently have the highest number of participants ever, 64, with eight groups of eight members! Join our January - June session by emailing Mary and Fred at arhoffert@aol.com by January 8th. (Only new members need to join; current members will be included.) We will announce the new groups during an all-dining-club brunch, between services Sunday, January 14. It will be a "pot luck" coffee hour; bring your favorite breakfast casserole, baked item, juice or treat.

OPEN DATE TO SPONSOR THE FLOWERS—January 28. Cost is \$34. Call the church office at 610-385-6616 if interested.

January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> Council persons in charge of services—Gary Weidner Jeff Duplak </div>	1	2 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS	3 9 AM—Prayer Group 9:30—Bible Study 7 PM—Christian Ed.	4 Noon—Friendship Circle 6 PM—T3 Comm. 7 PM--Choir	5	6 6 PM—Holy Comm.		
7 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—Sunday School 9:30—Finance Comm	8 10 AM—Labyrinth Gr. 7 PM—Pastoral Care	9 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS 6:15 PM--CDC	10 9 AM—Prayer Group 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 SPLAT after 10:30	15 11—2-Volunteer Fair 6 PM—Bible Study	16 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS	17 9 AM—Prayer Group 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 Comm. 9—noon—Hoagie sale 9:15—Sunday School 9:15—Social Min.	22	23 Quilting 2 PM—TOPS 7 PM—Women’s Gr.	24 9 AM—Prayer Group 9:30—Bible Study 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	29	30 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS	31 9 AM—Prayer Group 9:30—Bible Study	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Money Counters</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; width: 50%; border: none;"> 8:00 Jeane Serrian Carole Renninger Fred Hoffert </td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 50%; border: none;"> 10:30 Joanne Guss Arlene Hildebeitel Ray DiSandro </td> </tr> </table> </div>			8:00 Jeane Serrian Carole Renninger Fred Hoffert	10:30 Joanne Guss Arlene Hildebeitel Ray DiSandro
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