

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

Telephone (610) 385-6616

Fax (610) 385-6690

[www.stpaulsdouglassville.com](http://www.stpaulsdouglassville.com)

[info@stpaulsdouglassville.com](mailto:info@stpaulsdouglassville.com)

The Rev. Gregory W. Frey, Pastor



**APRIL, 2018**

While (Jesus) was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.' At once he came up to Jesus and said, 'Greetings, Rabbi!' and kissed him. Jesus said to him, 'Friend, do what you are here to do.' Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, 'Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? (Matthew 26:47-53)

Violent crime nationwide has fallen over the past two decades and violent incidents in schools have been steadily declining since the 1990's. These statistical facts are presented very cogently in national Unified Crime Reports produced each year. But the numerical fact of decreasing violent crime doesn't feel true does it? I would guess this is because the scale of violent incidents is enlarged and enhanced by mass shootings such as the one which took place in Florida last month. We are right to be horrified, saddened and energized by such events as they motivate us to try to find ways to be safer and more diligent. But we are mistaken, at least as the data suggests, in drawing the conclusion that we live in a society which is seeing an increase in public acts of violence. So why don't we feel that way?

That we feel less safe today is probably related to our increased exposure to violent incidents when they occur. Yes, I guess I'm hanging this on the media. But it is not just traditional media; social media, I believe, is also amplifying our perception of violence and danger. "If it bleeds, it leads" goes the media saying nobody in the media actually says. But it is policy. Regardless, I suspect we feel more unsafe today than ever before.

Whether we are more or less safe today, violence among human beings seems to be a consistent element of our character. Humans will do things to other humans which even an animal in ravenous madness would not do. Sorry to get all pessimistic on you but you know it is true. Humans have a unique and horrifying capacity for violence.

As if it were not troubling enough that we humans possess an exceptional capacity for violence we have sometimes cast God in a similar light. God, in more than a few passages of scripture, comes across as vengefully violent, sometimes capriciously violent. I don't have the space to delve into the individual incidences of violence in the Old Testament and even the New Testament. But I do want to point out that Jesus definitively and utterly rejected violence as an instrument of the Kingdom of God. The very kingdom Christians are made members of in Holy Baptism.

Even the book of Revelation, which early church councils were very reluctant to include in the canon of scripture for fear of the misunderstanding the allegorical use of violent imagery might foster (well-founded I believe), does not depict Jesus as condoning or participating in that violence. A Jesus like figure does bear a sword in Revelation but it is a sword that comes from his mouth and stands for the word he speaks (Revelation 2:16, 19:11-21). If the prevailing metaphor of the two edged sword is to be understood properly, it is that the same sword of the Word of God which slays sin and raises us to life in Christ (Hebrews 4:12, Ephesians 6:17). That very sword, the sword of the Spirit (spiritus gladius) depicted in the center window of our sanctuary, is a Word that gives life, not take it away.

The sword of the word is a strictly non-violent instrument. I believe Jesus couldn't be clearer on this issue throughout his life. I am confused at the contortions some Christians go through to construe Jesus' words

and actions as anything other than a rejection of violence in all its forms. There are many issues on which I wish Jesus had said more, issues on which different opinions might naturally be drawn, but this is not one of those issues. Through direct teaching (e.g. Matthew 5:3-12, 5:38-42, 5:43-46, 16:24-26, 26:50-53, Luke 3:14, 6:27-37, 14:26-27, John 18:36 – just to name a very few instances) and in his parables Jesus treats the issue of violence (including retaliation) and consistently concludes that it is an option not available for people of his Kingdom.

This creates a lot of problems for people who live in a violent world. I understand this. But Jesus' teaching and example of nonviolence needs to be the starting place for Christians and the foundational principle in a Jesus inspired approach to the problem of violence around us. Whether that violence is statistically increasing or declining, people suffering and dying demands a call to action by people of faith shaped by the witness of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In this season it should not be lost on us that Jesus himself was violently taken, suffered vicious beatings and was unjustly executed. The death of Jesus is a judgement against the human capacity (propensity) for violence and a condemnation of the unjust and cruel violence sometimes perpetrated in the name of justice. This is the witness of all four gospels and it is furthered by the Apostle Paul (see Romans 12:17-21, 14:17-19, Ephesians 2:14-18, 5:1-2, 6:12). This is the unique message Jesus imparted and it lays a substantial and challenging claim on his followers.

Generally, we are not the arbiters of what will be done with Christ's call to non-violence. I am not going to make a policy statement. Rather I wish to point out that in the busyness of Holy Week, bombarded by the many verses of scripture we encounter in the Three Days (Triduum) of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, it is easy to lose sight of Jesus' special counsel to his disciples in the midst of his extreme anxiety in Gethsemane, "all who take the sword will perish by the sword."

Christian's have a special message to deliver to a very fearful world. And that message begins with the affirmation that our God is a God of real and substantial peace. Jesus is the ultimate revelation of the heart of God and Jesus' final words from the cross were words of forgiveness

(Luke) and confidence in God's goodness. Astoundingly, after his resurrection, Jesus' first words to his disciples who had abandoned and denied him in his hour of trial and suffering were the words, "Peace be with you!"

What will our word be to our anxious brothers and sisters? I pray that our response may be more than passive well wishes. We are called to be active agents of the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. May God help us to bear Jesus' Easter proclamation to the world, "Peace be with you, as my Father sent me, so I send you!" (John 20:21).

--Pastor Frey

#### --WORSHIP IN APRIL--

April 1	Easter Day 8:00 & 10:30 A.M.—Holy Communion 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School
April 7	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
April 8	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School
April 14	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
April 15	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School
April 21	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
April 22	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School
April 28	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion

#### FROM THE PARISH RECORDS.....

**Baptisms:** March 3 -- **Benjamin Ryan Emil West** and **Landon Henry West**, sons of Kevin & Claire (Shires) West

March 18 – **Hadlynn Ryan Berzins**, daughter of Brett & Christina (Kruczuk) Berzins and **Hunter Robert Moyer**, son of Kristopher & Jennifer (Musselman) Moyer

March 31 – **Aeson Robert Poux** and **Vivienne Marie Poux**, children of Andrew & Megan (Kunkel) Poux

**Funerals:** 2/22 **Jeanette Hess**  
3/16 **James Gerhart**

**PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE TO GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP.....**



There will be no community Good Friday observance and blood drive at St. Paul's UCC in Amityville between noon and 3:00 P.M. as reported in last month's newsletter. We will, however, be having a Good Friday Tenebrae Service here at 7:00 P.M. with a cantata, *The Dark Hours*, sung by our choir.

**OPEN DATES TO SPONSOR THE FLOWERS**—April 29 & May 6. Cost is \$34.

**OPEN DATES TO SPONSOR THE BULLETINS**--- April 15, April 29, May 6. Cost is \$25. Call the church office if interested in any of these dates.

Watch for additional available dates throughout the year.



Mark Your Calendars!

**BASKET SOCIAL**

Friday May 4<sup>th</sup>

Doors open at 6:15

Ticket drawing begins at 7:15

Tickets: 25 for \$7

*Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door*

Basket donations are welcome (Minimum value \$20)!

This event is being sponsored by the Child Development Committee and the Women's Group. We're looking forward to an evening of fun, fellowship and food!

Please join us and bring a friend!

**A NOTE OF THANKS!**

*A very special thank you to everyone for their cards, prayers, calls and visits after my surgery! The thoughts of caring friends are the best medicine and your well wishes are very much appreciated!*

*--Frank Jablonski*

**RELAY FOR LIFE.....**

Join us Saturday, May 19 at the Relay for Life at the Daniel Boone High School. Our St. Paul's team's theme is "Noah's Ark." This all-day



fundraising event brings together teams from all over our community. Each team has a site on the field, lining the track. Our site will include a tent, a balloon rainbow arch, raffles to win rainbow-colored gift baskets, and balloon animal hats.

Join us at the event and walk with us. One person from our team, or several people, or a group of us will walk around the track all day; a relay walk of hope. The event begins with an opening ceremony at Noon.

How you can help support cancer research:

- Purchase a Luminaria Bag, to be lit during the Luminaria Ceremony at 9 pm.
- Purchase a Relay Rainbow tie-dye St. Paul's T-Shirt.  
(Both order forms are on the table in the Fellowship Hall near the Noah's Ark display.)
- Make a donation to help form our rainbow of hope on our Noah's Ark display in the Fellowship Hall.
- Choose a cancer awareness ribbon, add a personal message, and add it to the rainbow.

Checks may be made payable to the American Cancer Society. Donations may be placed in the bucket near the display, or in the offering plate.

For more information, contact Cassandra Johnson, Angie Kutz, Nancy Centrella, or any member of the Fellowship Committee.

**FOR SALE!**

**POOL TABLE FOR SALE.....**

In excellent condition, this Connelly Pool Table has green felt and is 5'x8' with cherry claw legs. It was originally purchased from R&R Games, and was donated to the Church. It has only been lightly used and is located in the church's lower level. The suggested donation is \$500. For more information, please contact Pastor Frey.

**JAZZ UP YOUR EVENING -- Friday, April 20: 7:00 pm**  
St. Paul's Sanctuary

All cool cats are invited to enjoy some hip horns and jammin jive. Join us for a toe-tapping concert by the Daniel Boone Middle and High School Jazz Bands. Admission is free. Bring your Dining Club!



**THINK YOU CAN HANDLE THE HEAT?**

Y'all are welcome to come on out **Saturday, April 7th** for our **CHILI COOK OFF!** Join us in the Fellowship Hall Ranch at High Noon, partner! Bring an unlabeled crockpot filled with your best chili. Tastin' is free and votin' is free, too! You'll be the judge. We'll be charging for drinks though, so be sure you can handle your Tabasco! The event is for our young chaps - a free will offering will benefit our ELCA youth trip to Houston this summer. Bring the spouse, the kids, and your dinner clubs! Come on out for a Hollerin' Good Time!



**WOMEN'S GROUP**

Our next program for the Women's Group will be a speaker from the Bethany Children's Home in Womelsdorf. Join us on Tuesday, April 24 in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm to hear Kirsten Keim Flynn tell us about the wonderful programs and care provided at the children's home.

**Mission: Birdsboro 5K – Servants of Christ Welcome.....**

As a way to raise funds and awareness for Mission Trip Birdsboro, our congregation is partnering with St. Paul's UCC, Birdsboro to host the events surrounding the April 21<sup>st</sup> *Mission: Birdsboro 5K*. There are a number of ways to serve that day: Staffing a display table for our congregation, assisting with parking, facilitating free family activities, and/or being a part of the community project team. An online sign up will be available in early April so that you can join in this work of sharing the good news of our congregation and the living presence of Christ at work within our communities!

**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: Lee Hart, Sandra Hart, Russ Hartline, Diane Hartline, Sara Hartline, Phyllis Harwood, Michael Hasara, Wendy Hasara, Zachary Hasara, Jacob Hasara, Amy Healy, George Heath, Adrienne Heisey, Kayla Heisey, Bailey Heisey. 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: Jeannie Crass, Marie Hafer, Alyse Charlesworth, Maureen Dolan, Lucille Muller, Sue Keay, Doug Cook, Carole Barbary, Fern Brown, Valerie Day, Barbara DePrefontaine, David Focht, Connie Hunter, Jackie Hurchalla, Frank Jablonski, Richard Wise, family and friends of James Gerhart, and all others listed below or those we name in our hearts: Bob Johnson, homebound— Geraldine Barbone\*, Jennie Clouser, Carol DeLong, Grace Frey, Jan Haas, Laura Schmale, Alma Shirey, Patsy Smale.



\*Non-member

# Happy Birthday!

4/1	Harry Hafer Fred Hoffert Jason Ware	4/15	Lisa Miller Ann Myers Carol Pearson
4/2	Jason Parduski Margaret Reitmeyer Joan Wendel	4/16	Janet Suglia Mindy Haring Sara Hartline
4/3	Diane DiSandro Vicci Eidell Madison Kochert Chad Moser	4/17	Elizabeth Dollhopf Anne Weiser
4/4	Taylor Eisenhuth Charlotte Moser Olivia Yuhasz	4/18	Daulton Shaffer
4/5	Caitlin Hoag Colin Leahy Ryan Parduski Olivia Raber	4/19	Helen Strain Adam DiSandro Marlane Druckenmiller Wendy Frey
4/6	Brett Berger	4/22	Chester Springel
4/8	Avery Main	4/23	Amy Bartra Avery Hampton
4/10	Grayson Cloutier Gabriel Schulze	4/24	Sean Berger Grayson Emery Guy Graefe
4/11	Jackson Albright Kaylin Berry	4/26	Vicki Hiser Ashleigh Hoover Stephanie Vernon
4/12	David Childs Michael Hoag	4/27	Carey Coyle Ashley Finkbiner Lindsey Yoder
4/13	Patrick Dollhopf Karen Glaser Barry Gross Sue Kucharik	4/28	Aimee DiSandro
4/15	Bryce Johnson	4/29	Angie Kutz Joseph Duffy

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO –

Joseph & Betty Dowd	4/3	64 yrs.
Kevin Fisher & Rob Edinger	4/11	3 yrs.
Carl & Carlene Yerger	4/14	45 yrs.
Sieglinde & Barry Fretz	4/14	15 yrs.
Richard & Debra Geiger	4/17	8 yrs.
Calvin & Ellen Sheeler	4/20	66 yrs.
Joe & Kim Koury	4/30	24 yrs.

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER HAPPENINGS.....

Spring is in the air and April is finally here! It is wonderful to see the grass and playground without a covering of snow. The children seem to be equally excited to be able to play outside and enjoy the playground after many long months of being inside. Last month marked the end of the Scholastic Book Fair and the Grand Event festivities. We are happy to report that the event was a huge success and a fun time for the participants. We would like to thank all of the volunteers and CDC committee members for their hard work and planning to organize the event. Additionally, we would like to thank everyone for their patronage in support of our fundraising efforts. We will use our "Scholastic-Dollars" to purchase classroom supplies.



Our GIANT A+ Rewards program has earned \$773.66 to date. Thank you supporting our efforts by shopping at GIANT.

Save the date Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup> for the annual Basket Social.

Just as a reminder, registration for Preschool and Kindergarten Enrichment is open. If you would like additional information, please stop by or call the CDC office. Planning for the Summer Program is underway. Stay tuned for additional information. Thank you for your continued support.

--Sherry Gardner, Director

## HOLY WEEK



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- March 26, 27 & 28 -- 7:00 P.M. – Word & Prayer
- March 29 7:00 P.M. – Holy Communion (Maundy Thursday)
- March 30 7:00 P.M. – Tenebrae Service (Good Friday)
- March 31 8:00 P.M. – Easter Vigil
- April 1 8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Easter—Holy Communion

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

# April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<b>1 Easter</b> 8 & 10:30—Holy Com 9:15—Easter breakfast 9:15—Sunday School	<b>2</b> 7 PM—Christian Ed.	<b>3</b> Quilting 9:30—Bazaar crafts 2 PM—TOPS 6:15—Child Dev.	<b>4</b> 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study	<b>5</b> Noon-Amity Fr. Circle 6 PM—T3 Comm. 7 PM--Choir	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Noon—Chili Cook Off 6 PM-Holy Comm.	
<b>8</b> 8 & 10:30—Worship 9:15—Sunday School 9:15--Fellowship 9:30 AM—Finance SPLAT after 10:30	<b>9</b> 10 AM—Labyrinth Gr. 7 PM—Pastoral Care	<b>10</b> Quilting 9:30—Bazaar crafts 2 PM--TOPS	<b>11</b> 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study 6:15—Executive Com 7 PM--Council	<b>12</b> 7 PM—Choir 7 PM—Prayer Shawl	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 6 PM-Holy Comm.	
<b>15</b> 8 & 10:30—Holy Com 9:15—Sunday School 9:15—Social Min.	<b>16</b> 6 PM—Bible Study	<b>17</b> Quilting 9:30—Bazaar crafts 2 PM--TOPS	<b>18</b> 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study	<b>19</b> 7 PM—Choir 7:30 PM—Crime Watch	<b>20</b> 7 PM--Jazz Band Concert	<b>21</b> 7:30 AM—Property Mission: Birdsboro 5K run 6 PM-Holy Comm.	
<b>22</b> 8 & 10:30—Worship 9:15—Sunday School	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Quilting 9:30—Bazaar crafts 2 PM—TOPS 7 PM—Women's Gr.	<b>25</b> 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study 7 PM—Worship & Music	<b>26</b> 7 PM—Choir <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;">                         -----Pre-School Spring Programs-----                     </div>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6 PM-Holy Comm.	
<b>29</b> 8 & 10:30—Worship 9:15—Sunday School	<b>30</b>	--Money counters-- <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center;">                         8:00                          Jeane Serrian                          Carole Renninger                          Fred Hoffert                     </div> <div style="text-align: center;">                         10:30                          Cindy Matosky                          Tim Oister                          Joe Koury                     </div> </div>		Council persons in charge of services: Joe Koury Carole Renninger Liz Dollhopf			