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The Rev. Gregory W. Frey, Pastor

JUNE, 2019

FROM THE ARCHIVES.....

Below is an article I wrote for the newsletter in June of 2006. That is exactly 13 years ago... amazing! I don't remember getting any feedback about this article, positive or negative. I wonder if I presented this article as just written today I would, on account of our hyper-polarized political situation, get a different response. Anyway, I present this article from the archives, the information is still accurate, and the crisis over immigration has grown worse rather than better.

*"For the LORD your God is God of gods and LORD of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."
(Deut. 10:17-19)*

Immigration reform is an issue that seemingly came out of nowhere this spring, yet has quickly consumed our attention. What we have learned however is that this issue has always been here but has been largely ignored throughout various tenures of both political parties. Personally, I am not quite sure yet what the best policy should be concerning immigration. However, I wish to share a few thoughts and a resource Lutherans might take into consideration concerning this issue.

As the above Scripture passage makes clear God expects compassion, particularly to the most vulnerable in society. This is not to suggest there should be no laws and controls for the movements of peoples. But

somewhere between "total amnesty" and "immediate incarceration" there must be a policy which provides for the best possible outcome for our country and those people seeking a better life and opportunity here. We should also remember that the majority of people who immigrate legally and illegally do so with the hope of providing a better life for their families. For some immigrants their successful (albeit illegal) immigration could be the difference between life and death for their children. This does not excuse illegal activity including illegal immigration. However, all parents can understand the protective impulse parents have for their children. Discovering how we, as a compassionate nation, should best address this issue is not easy. But we should consider that it is desperation which drives most immigrants (A fact which is both historically and globally true).

Finally immigration is an issue which Lutherans have been involved with since the beginning of American Lutheranism. Lutherans have historically been known as an immigrant church. Many of our churches including St. Paul's in Amity retained their German worship services for generations after arriving in America and began worshipping in English only with great reluctance. (Worship was exclusively in German from 1753-1844. English was introduced as a concession to a break off group of young people. German services were discontinued in 1890).

Since 1939, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has worked with service, advocacy and educational partners nationwide to bring new hope and new life to America's newcomers. LIRS resettles refugees, protects unaccompanied refugee and migrant children, including victims of trafficking, advocates for fair and just treatment of asylum seekers, seeks alternatives to detention for those who are incarcerated during their immigration proceedings and stands for unity for families fractured by immigration issues.

LIRS is a cooperative agency of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. With initiative and stewardship, LIRS seeks creative solutions for uprooted people regardless of race, ethnicity or religious beliefs. More information is available at www.lirs.org.

It is my hope our legislators may find an immigration solution which best serves the interest of both Americans and those desiring the opportunity this nation affords. Please pray for our leaders to have both wisdom and compassion that God may lead them on this important issue.

--Pastor Frey

--WORSHIP IN JUNE--

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

FROM THE PARISH RECORDS.....

Baptisms: -- May 11, 2019 --**Carter Gerard Ahles**, son of Douglas & Megan (Buchmann) Ahles
May 26, 2019 – **Elisha Brielle Pitman**, daughter of Alfred & Viola (Acsay) Pitman

THOUGHTS ON PENTECOST BY JOY GERHART.....



I have always liked Pentecost. Maybe it's because red is one of my favorite colors. I hope there's more to it than that. I've always found the story of the Holy Spirit descending like flames of fire on the disciples very exciting. They were in a way "set on fire," maybe like the hearts of the men who walked with Jesus to Emmaus (Luke 24) who said, "Didn't our

hearts burn within us when he explained the scriptures to us?" There is also something very exciting and amazing about the fact that the disciples were able to speak in many languages to the people of many backgrounds gathered in Jerusalem for the Jewish celebration of Pentecost. Perhaps even more amazing is the fact that so many were able to HEAR and understand the message that the disciples shared.

Over the years I have gained an appreciation for how important it is to listen to other people. We don't often list it as a thing we can "do" for other people, but I'm beginning to think it is one of the most important things we can do for others. I love pastor's great story about the woman who pointed to his badge and said, "you're supposed to be a listener aren't you?" when he didn't hear her say he should stay on the porch. There are so many noises around and so many distractions that it is often hard to hear what people are saying. I admit I don't always turn the TV off or at least the sound when someone calls on the phone. (But I have also heard loud TV noises in the background of callers.) I admit that I need to focus more on what each person is saying to me. There are times I know I really want to say some things to others—some important, some not really important. It does really feel good to be heard, to be listened to.

I don't know if I've actually heard God's voice, but I KNOW there are way too many times that I am not listening. If I am not trying to hear a message, I will probably not hear it. (We can "hear" by reading and listening to others too.) People have commented on how differently people in a congregation may hear the same sermon. I'm sure this is the work of the Holy Spirit, helping people hear what they need or what God needs them to hear. I guess what I'm aiming at is that at Pentecost, people HEARD the disciples, and UNDERSTOOD, and BELIEVED. Did the Holy Spirit give the disciples different languages to speak, or did the people just hear them in their own languages? Either way it's an amazing miracle.

You may or may not know that I'm a big science fiction fan. I recently watched *Arrival* for the second time. It was all about trying to understand the language of space aliens. The statement that stuck with me was "When you get to know another's language, you can begin to think like them." Spoiler alert: that's kind of what happens in the movie. Perhaps if we listen to others more carefully, we may be able to

understand them better and better. What if we listened to God or God's word more? Maybe we wouldn't exactly "think like God" but maybe we could understand God a little better.

Enjoy celebrating the miracle of Pentecost where thousands HEARD and BELIEVED and were BAPTIZED, making this the birthday of the church. Remember to listen carefully so you can really hear what is being said to you, so you can know the other better.



WELCOME NEW CONFIRMANDS.....

We are happy to welcome six young people into the confirmed membership of the congregation. Congratulations to Madison Albright, Ethan Berger, Isaac Cope, Kate Hendricks, Jessi Kucharik, and Nathan Tindall who will be confirmed (affirm their faith) on June 9 at the 10:30 service. Please remember to keep these young people in your prayers as they begin a new portion of their Christian journey. A reception will be held for them after the 10:30 church service (thanks to the Social Ministry Committee) and all are welcome.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS ALMOST HERE! JUNE 23-27, 6 – 8 PM

Now is the time to register and get in shape for our trip to Mars! Registration forms are available on Joy's door, on the shelf in the narthex by the bulletin board, and in the CDC vestibule. Registration is only \$15 for 5 evenings of fun with music, science, crafts, sports, and, of course, Bible stories. We will learn how to "go beyond" with Faith, Boldness, Kindness, Thankfulness, and Hope!

A dinner will be available every night at 5:30 pm (with a basket for free will donations). Please let Michele Fisher know if you are willing to help make one of our recipes to serve.

Please let Joy Gerhart know if you are interested in helping in any way. We can use lots of group assistants, center assistants, and kitchen help.

To enable youth and adults to do an even greater job of leading and guiding our groups we will be offering a special orientation session during the Sunday School hour (9:15 – 10:15 am) on June 16. We also plan to have an adult-supervised Christian video time for children (at 9:15 am) if parents wish to come to the meeting.

We can't wait to set up all our space-y decorations! All of the centers will be out of this world, and everyone will LOVE our puppet "EP3-20." (Just as a little inside information: If you look up in the Bible under Ephesians 3:20 you will find our theme Bible verse: Glory to God who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us!)



Come on board for a rip roaring rocketing good time!

WOMEN'S GROUP.....

It's June and it's time to visit the Manatawny Winery! We plan to meet on Tuesday, June 18 at 5:00 pm (and please call Joy Gerhart if you need a ride). (We are not meeting on the 4th Tuesday because that is VBS week.) Please bring cheese and crackers or other snacks. We hope to be able to sit outside and relax. Oh, and we hope to do a little planning in this relaxed setting too! Bring some money for wine tasting and/or to buy a bottle or two to take home. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

<u>--YTD Giving thru April, 2019--</u>				
	<u>Jan-Apr-2018</u>	<u>Jan-Apr 2019</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>% chg.</u>
Offerings	\$ 124,494	\$ 131,564	7,070	5.68
Renovation Contr.	24,759	22,441	-2,317	-9.36
Total Giving	\$ 149,253	\$ 154,005	\$ 4,752	3.08

ATTENTION FAMILIES. The church softball team (including new members/participants) had a great time last year playing a friendly game and we want to do it again this year. We plan to play a friendly game on Sunday afternoon, July 28th at the ball fields near the pavilion at Amity Community Park. No experience or equipment (other than a glove) is needed. We simply aim to have fun. If enough people are interested, we can also have a picnic afterwards as well. If you are interested in playing, please contact Rich Saylor at saylorrp@gmail.com or (484) 955-5911. For a picnic to be successful, I would ask that someone plan some simple logistics (food and snacks).



DINING CLUB SIX PACKS.....

Are you Mellow Yellow or Wild Cherry? Sunkist or Mountain Dew? We'll be adding some fizz to the July - December Dinner Clubs by sizing them as six packs. You spoke and we listened - feedback was that having six members allows for easier scheduling and better conversation. Join the clubs for some refreshing fun! Email Mary and Fred Hoffert at arhoffert@aol.com before June 16.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES.....

From Daniel Boone High School:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Olivia Cozzone | Magdalena Nygard |
| Taylor Eisenhuth | Jacob Oister |
| Bailey Heisey | Lauren Sarro |
| Matthew Kresge | Aspyn Shaffer |
| Erin Mooney | Noah Tindall |
| Riley Muschick | Abigail Trombley |



From Owen J. Roberts High School:
Daniel Kucharik

If you have recently graduated from an institution of higher learning, please call the church office and your name will be included next month.

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: Ryann Michener, Danielle Mickletz, Denise Millard, Eleanor Millard, Brian Miller, Rebecca Miller, Jared Miller, Cory Miller, Evan Miller, Janice Miller, Beatrice Mohr, Calvin Monroe, Lorrie Monroe, Sydney Moody, Kelly Mooney, Colin Mooney, Erin Mooney. 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: Fern Brown, Karin DiSanto, Ron Glaser, Diana Gower, Gus, Frank Jablonski, Nancy Jackle, Janice Jancovic, Beatrice Johnson, Gerald Levengood, Gary Leister, Kasey O'Neill-Bowers, Sally Reed, George Rhoades, Henry Rhoads, Lenore Robinson, Ron Rosenau, John Serrian, Sr., John Shaner, Jeanie Templin, Millard Watson, family & friends of Louise Trainer, Carol Cummings, and all others listed below or those we name in our hearts; Allison, Delphine Altland, Rich Bell, Bill, Charles Brown, Diane Cataldi, Courtney, Charles "Skip" Davidheiser, Elena Demos, Terry Eberly, Linda Epler, Carl Fetterman, Verna Habecker, Marie Hafer, Bev Hasson, Rich Jacobs, Jenny, Ruby Lewis, Charles Marquette, Ronnie McCarraher, Aggie McCombs, Charles Merkle, Jr., Nancy Osterman, June Rhoads, Gabriel Schulze, Kelly Stoltzfus, Sue Strain, Dale Szajek, Kimberly Szajek, Crystal Tufts, Lynwood Weil, Terry Weiler, Al Wrigley, Tom Yetto; homebound— Peggy Burns, Jennie Clouser, Carol DeLong, Jan Haas, Jeane Rohrbach, Laura Schmale, Alma Shirey, Patsy Smale, Ralph Trainer, Pauline Trout, Richard Wise.



OLD TENNIS BALLS WANTED—If you have any old tennis balls that you don't need any more, especially if they don't bounce, we can use them to cover metal chair "feet" to protect our floors. Just drop off any you might have to offer in Joy's office. Thanks!

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER HAPPENINGS.....

It is hard to believe that the school year is coming to an end. The last day for the Daniel Boone students will be on Friday, June 7, 2019. Thank you for attending the graduation festivities. We are very proud of all of the Kindergarten Enrichment graduates and the Preschool graduates. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

Thank you for supporting and attending the Basket Social. It was an exciting event for everyone. We are looking forward to a fun and exciting Summer Program. The children will be busy exploring the Vacation Bible School theme "To Mars and Beyond" that is sure to be an out-of-this-world experience. The program will kick off on Monday, June 10, 2019. We are currently accepting applications for the summer and fall enrollment.



Thank you for all of the recent donations of towels, toys, and books. We truly appreciate your donations and continued support.
Sherry Gardner, CDC Director

YOUTH NEWS.....

SPYY had a great time on May 17 watching Space Camp and munching on popcorn. Before the movie we shot off antacid fueled rockets and learned about being members of a team—the body of Christ.



SPLAT had a great time on May 19 watching the most recent version of Jesus Christ Superstar with John Legend as Jesus. We were able to enjoy the video in the comfort of Mrs. Matosky's home.

In June we encourage all young youth to register for Vacation Bible School and for all older youth to volunteer to help. We will have a wonderful time traveling "To Mars and Beyond" June 23-27!



6/1	Savannah Walter	6/15	Kylie Oesterling
	Sydney Walter	6/17	Darvin Levensgood
6/2	Erin Day		Nicholas Luo
	Tracy Detwiler		Andy Mooney
	Adam Royer		Landon West
6/3	Paige DePrefontaine	6/18	Amy McCormick
	Janice Goodman		Nancy Stewart
	Kathy Kline	6/19	Ellen Buck
	Cory Miller		Addison Cloutier
	Jared Miller		Jameson DeLaTorre
6/4	Sheamus Breen		Jennifer MacMullin
	Aspyn Shaffer		Brianna Wlajnitz
	Ryan Siwinski	6/20	Lylia DePrefontaine
	Justin Sowers		Rob Edinger
6/5	June Geiger	6/21	Amelia Fretz
	Avery Yetter		Julia Price
6/6	George Heath	6/22	Maxwell Cicala
6/7	David Hiser		Jennifer Kochert
6/8	Olivia Cozzone		Patricia Sowers
6/9	Andy Berger		Lincoln Stoudt
	Annalee Catarious		Larry Swavely
	Janet Levensgood	6/23	Eric Kupp
	Maya Michener		Rick Weiler
6/10	McKinley Albright	6/24	Lou Day
	Tammy Eisenhard		Leroy DePrefontaine
	Nick Freitag		Rory Emery
	Richard Kaufman		Lisa Lerch
	Aleigha Koslik	6/25	Ella Flamini
6/11	Betty Clark		Greg Kresge
	Greg Hensley		Jake Musselman
	Cynthia Meng	6/26	Harrison Potts
	James Wolfe		Carl Pratt
	Ken Yoder		Mike Weidner
6/12	Charles Fix	6/27	Charles Brown
	April Royer	6/28	Sheila Angstadt
6/13	Matt Kresge	6/29	Charles Marquette
	Jan Schell	6/30	Karen Brown
6/14	Riley Muschick		Lilian Reber
	Susanne Walley		

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO –

Carole & Bill Berry	6/1	45 yrs.
Adrienne & Matt Stumhofer	6/1	6 yrs.
Richard & Kristin Saylor	6/3	13 yrs.
Len & Geraldine Trauger	6/3	58 yrs.
Carl & Marjorie Pratt	6/4	31 yrs.
Jamie & Sara Trout	6/4	8 yrs.
Dale & Kathy Szajek	6/5	43 yrs.
Charles & Margaret Burns	6/7	67 yrs.
Jay & Pat McClafferty	6/14	44 yrs.
Dave & Sue Prizer	6/14	44 yrs.
John & Linda Heisey	6/15	51 yrs.
Ray & Carolyn DiSandro	6/17	13 yrs.
Eric & Erika Kupp	6/17	2 yrs.
Ron & Kathy Rhoads	6/18	42 yrs.
Richard & Mary Jean Talbott	6/19	48 yrs.
Lynwood & Joan Weil	6/20	38 yrs.
Harold & Ruth Grim	6/22	45 yrs.
John & Jeane Serrian	6/22	28 yrs.
Jerry & Jennifer MacMullin	6/24	30 yrs.
John & Tiffany Cappellano	6/25	14 yrs.
Craig & Wendy Yambor	6/26	20 yrs.
Tammy & Judd Eisenhard	6/28	11 yrs.
Christopher & Jill Michener	6/28	13 yrs.
Tom Beil & Beth Jablonski	6/30	12 yrs.

Omitted from May’s listing

David & Deb Smith	5/15	15 yrs.
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LETTER OF THANKS.....

Dear Friends,
Thank you for your recent gift of \$1,176 to CWS Blankets and Tools!
Your gift enables CWS to provide much needed blankets after disaster strikes or to keep someone warm on a cold night. It ensures families have seeds and tools for a home garden or nets to fish.
In peace, Eric Luckenbill, CWS

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Saturday Evening at Zion, Tamaqua



Pr. Cindy White offers blessings to three companions at a Saturday service

One size does not fit all, especially when it comes to worship styles. Five years ago Zion, Tamaqua developed a Saturday evening service to

- provide an alternative time of worship for people who cannot get to a Sunday service, and
- provide an alternative style of worship for people who do not relate to the typical traditional high liturgy.

The service includes all the parts of a traditional service but in a more relaxed, informal style. Within a short period of time, we installed a digital projector and purchased the ProPresenter program to organize our worship and to allow us to add purchased music and subject matter videos to our service.

Because of its flexibility, the Saturday service has been adapted to include a special service for cancer survivors, our annual blessing of the animals, a vow renewal service around Valentine’s Day, and a Christmas in July service complete with a full holiday dinner following the service. All the Saturday services begin with Godsightings, when people are encouraged to share where they have seen God at work in their lives during the past week.

In December 2017 we began live-streaming our Saturday and Sunday services through Boxcast. As of March 30, we have webcast 107 services. On our website we’ve reached 379 unique viewers who watched 1,491 times. We began posting on Facebook in March 2018. Since then we’ve had 2,522 viewers of Saturday services and 2,830 viewers of Sunday services. Services are archived for several weeks.

Correction: In the last edition of Synod News Pastor Carl Shankweiler was reported as having retired. Although Pr. Shankweiler has stepped down from synod staff, he is still the called pastor at Zion, Frackville and also working under contract with Trinity (Chapel), Buck Run.



Community Breakfast at St. John, Easton



A member of St. John's Lutheran Church in historic downtown Easton came to the Outreach Committee meeting and said, "Let's have a community breakfast." No agenda, no cost, just something to get people together. The committee mulled it over and said, "Let's do it!"

Breakfast had already become a speciality for Roger Ruggles. On Sunday mornings he cooked pancakes, French toast, and bacon/sausage; and he served them with fruit for any in the Sunday school before the 9:00 start time.



Roger decided to extend what he already knew; so he recruited some others to help cook: Mayor Sal Panto, and Roger's brother-in-law Dennis Greenleaf. And Roger also invited Bishop Zeizer, who was kind enough to attend and help fix the plates.

At the free meal firefighters, police officers, community leaders, Lafayette students, neighbors, some homeless, and parishioners gathered together to eat. Another church even sent volunteers to help serve. The volunteers served over a hundred people, and comments from the diners were very positive.

A simple breakfast became an example of hospitality in downtown Easton at its best!



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JUNE, 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
2 8 & 10:30—Holy Com. 9:15—Sunday School 2—5 PM—Flute recital	3 7 PM—Christian Ed.	4 Quilting 9:30—Bazaar crafts 2 PM—TOPS 6:15—Child Dev.	5 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study	6 Noon—Amity Fr. Circle 6 PM—T3	7	1 6 PM—Holy Comm. <hr style="width: 100%;"/> 8 6 PM—Holy Comm.	
9 <i>Pentecost</i> 8 & 10:30—Holy Com. 9:15—Sunday School 9:15—Fellowship Com 9:30—Finance Com.	10 7 PM—Pastoral Care	11 Quilting 9:30—Bazaar crafts 2 PM--TOPS	12 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study 6:15—Executive Com. 7:00--Council	13 7 PM—Prayer Shawl	14	15 7:30 AM--Property 6 PM—Holy Comm.	
16 8 & 10:30—Holy Com. Social Ministry following 10:30	17 6 PM—Bible Study	18 Quilting 9:30—Bazaar crafts 2 PM—TOPS 5 PM—Women’s Gr. @ Winery	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.	
-----Vacation Bible School, 6—8:00 P.M. (dinner @ 5:30 optional)-----							
30 8 & 10:30--Worship	Money counters 8 AM Jeane Serrian June Geiger Rhonda Maloney			10:30 AM Ray DiSandro Joe Koury Joanne Guss			Council persons in charge of services—Rhonda Maloney (8:00)