

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



**MARCH, 2020**

**A Sense of Awe.....**

The five senses we use to perceive our world are remarkable when we pause to consider them. Here are a few amazing facts about our five senses for consideration.

Your eyes will process approximately 24 million images in a lifetime through a mechanism (the eye) that consists of more than 2 million working parts. 85 percent of all that you know is derived from information processed by the eye. Under perfect conditions the eye can recognize a candle lit from up to 14 miles away.

Our hearing is not as acute as our dog's. A dog's hearing is about 4 times greater than ours, but we do have an astonishing capacity to judge the direction a sound is coming from (unless it's a battery alarm on a smoke detector). Subtle noises will cause our pupils to dilate so turning down your car radio will allow you to see better when backing up. Also a large meal will make your hearing less sharp.

Taste and smell are very closely connected. In fact, 80 % of what we experience as taste is actually smell. Women smell much better than men (?) and have better taste...sorry fellas, it's science! The sense of smell is the sense most closely connected to memory. Part of the brain's limbic system, the olfactory bulb accesses the hippocampus and the amygdala which are responsible for associative learning. Therefore, smells can easily transport us back to the pleasant experience of grandma's kitchen or the terror of our childhood doctor's office.

Our skin is the largest organ of our bodies and contains more than 4 million sensory receptors. The most sensitive of these receptors are the lips, the back of the neck, fingertips and soles of feet. The least sensitive is the middle of your back (yet it's the itchiest). Pain is the body's warning system; we have more sensory receptors for pain than any other sensation.

Our senses are the instruments through which we perceive the world outside ourselves. But our senses are also involved in how we experience and express our spirituality.

The worship life of the ancient church was very much a multi-sensory experience. Brightly colored frescos, religious statues and iconography, chanting and bells, the kiss of peace, billowing frankincense, ample bread and the shared cup of wine made the worship service a sensory extravaganza.

Contemporary protestant worship, by comparison, is almost a sensory deprivation tank. While the reintroduction of incense might drive out our asthmatic worshippers, there are certainly ways we might better employ all of our senses in our worship and spiritual lives.

This lent in our mid-week Wednesday evening prayer services we will meditate on how God encounters us in Scripture through our five human senses and consider how these senses might help make our faith more experienceable.

--Pastor Frey



**SOUP & BREAD at 6:00 P.M. PRIOR TO LENTEN SERVICES.....**



Lent is beginning and so are our soup suppers before our Lenten worship services on Wednesdays. (Also following the 11:00 A.M. service on Ash Wednesday) Although we are asking committees to sponsor or take responsibility for an evening, we would love to have volunteers to make additional pots of soup to serve. Please sign up in the Narthex with your phone number if you are willing to make some soup one evening.

Help is always needed to clean up.

**--WORSHIP IN MARCH--**

March 1	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School
March 4	7:00 P.M. – Mid-week Lenten service Holden’s Evening Prayer
March 7	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
March 8	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School
March 11	7:00 P.M. – Mid-week Lenten service Holden’s Evening Prayer
March 14	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
March 15	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School
March 18	7:00 P.M. – Mid-week Lenten service Holden’s Evening Prayer
March 21	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
March 22	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School
March 25	7:00 P.M. – Mid-week Lenten service Holden’s Evening Prayer
March 28	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
March 29	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School

**FROM THE PARISH RECORDS.....**

**Baptisms:** Feb. 22 – **Eric Scott Shank**

Feb. 23 – **Georgia Mae Wegman**, daughter of Brian & Kelsey (Brown) Wegman



**We have reached our goal of paying off our new SIGN.** A big thanks to everyone for making our church a testament to the glory of God.

**THOUGHTS ON LENT...by Joy Gerhart**

My family was never one for giving up stuff for Lent. I’d heard about it, maybe from Catholic friends, but we never made a practice of it. We weren’t big on eating fish either, so it was a good thing we didn’t have to eat fish on Friday. I thought, perhaps, that in Lutheran Seminary they might be more restrictive about what they served during Lent at the Refectory (fancy name for dining hall). I wondered if I would even be able to eat birthday cake since my birthday almost always falls in Lent, often during Holy Week.

Imagine my surprise when all the desserts rolled out, like usual, every night. They weren’t going to MAKE ME give up anything. That was such a long time ago, but it still sticks with me that we are free to do what we want in Lent, spiritually or otherwise. No one is going to deny us a certain kind of food or force us to eat fish on Friday (unless you live with a demanding parent). We have to decide what will make Lent meaningful for us. Sometimes giving up isn’t the answer, and sometimes it is. Sometimes Giving or Doing is a good practice—reading the Bible, volunteering more, praying more, committing to more family time, coming to church on Wednesdays (or even Bible study, hint hint), intentionally connecting with loved ones, contributing to a charity, reading a devotion daily, . . . I could go on and on.

Whatever we do in Lent, I pray that we can all get a little closer to God, a little closer to our community and families, more confident of God’s mercy, and more committed to seek justice for all in this world.

*“He has told you, O mortal what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice and love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8*

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith...



Hebrews 10:22

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES.....



### **Walk Through Holy Week on Palm Sunday, April 5**

This Palm Sunday we will have another Walk Through Holy Week experience during the Sunday School hour (9:15-10:15 am). All children, youth, and adults are invited to join us on the journey from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday in one hour. This year we will try to accentuate the sights, sounds, smells, touches and tastes of Holy Week, to dovetail with our Lenten sermon theme of the senses. We will start in the hall outside of the Fellowship Hall and continue downstairs to a number of rooms. We will be enlisting youth to play major roles in enacting the Holy week experiences. Don't miss out on the drama or sensations!

### **Lenten Bible Study after Worship Services –Begins Feb. 23**

Each year we offer a special Bible study in the Library after the conclusion of the Wednesday Lenten Evening Prayer services. This usually takes place at the same time as choir rehearsal. The topic for this Lenten season will be the study of certain illustrated (or illuminated) passages in the St. John's Bible. We have had some very interesting conversations on Sunday mornings in the Adult Bible study class, which will continue through the spring. Some of the BEST lessons will be shared on our Wednesday night gatherings. So stay for a little while after the service and enjoy the beauty of the Bible texts and the intriguing illustrations which incorporate ancient and contemporary symbols and designs. These illustrations have enabled us to look more deeply into each Bible passage. The study will start on Wednesday, February 23 and will continue through April 1, no fooling!

### **Speed Meeting for Youth on March 15**

Twice a year we try to acquaint our youth in the confirmation program with different adults in the congregation. We will be doing this again on March 15 in the Fellowship Hall in a kind of "speed meeting" (NOT DATING) format. Youth have had fun in the past asking adults questions determined by the spin of a die (singular for dice). If you wonder what all the buzz is in the Fellowship Hall on March 15 during the Sunday school hour, this is it! If you might be interested in participating in future speed meeting events, please speak to Joy Gerhart.



**VBS –June 14-18, 2020**

Please mark your calendars and plan to join in the fun of our Rainforest Explorers Vacation Bible School. VBS will be held Sunday, June 14 to Thursday, June 18, 2020 from 6-8 each evening preceded by a community dinner. We are going to have a lot of fun this summer! The songs are great, the Bible stories are great, and we are going to be planning a lot of fun crafts as well as science projects and games. You may want to start practicing your vine swinging skills and tropical bird calls! (Only kidding!) We are getting excited and we hope you will join us in this exotic adventure this summer.

## YOUTH NEWS.....

**SPLAT**—SPLAT youth enjoyed a lively bowling outing at Jay Lanes in February. We had such a good time that we bowled 3 games!!!!

Next up for SPLAT is a March 8 Pizza Party after church where we will play games and do a couple service projects, including making Easter cards and gifts for the recipients of our congregations Easter food baskets. All youth in grades 7-12 are invited and FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME! Please sign up on the Youth Board outside Joy's office.

**SPYY** also had a very exciting time bowling in February. Oh, what fun you can have with bumpers! You have to hear the story about our superstar Chase and his bowling a 90! (Miss Joy got a 119, probably her best score ever!)

SPYY will meet again on March 15 after the 10:30 worship service when we will eat lunch, maybe with a little early St. Patrick's Day theme, then play games and do a painting project. All 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade youth are invited AND FRIENDS! Please sign up on the Youth Board.

**COMING UP**—A SPLAT and SPYY trip to Ozzy’s on April 26! Stay tuned for more information!!!!

**COLLECTION FOR THE COMMUNITY TABLE AND PANTRY.....**



Hopewell Love offers a Community Table meal and Pantry every second and fourth Tuesday of the month.

Many people look forward to the help the Pantry provides offering food and things that they cannot afford. One thing the Pantry is always in very short supply of is “taxable items” like shampoo, soap, tooth paste, tooth brushes, toilet paper, tissues, feminine hygiene products, paper towels, dish washing detergent, laundry detergent, cleaning products, trash bags, and pet food. If you can donate any of these items, please bring them to the Fellowship Hall and place them on the rectangular table near the coat rack. The table should be marked with a sign. Your efforts will be most appreciated!



**BLOOD DRIVE.....**

You can save a life of someone in your community today! Sign up for the **Community Blood Drive** right here at St. Paul’s on **Monday, March 9, from 2 pm to 7 pm**. Online registration is available at

[www.GIVEaPINT.org](http://www.GIVEaPINT.org). Use sponsor code 2050 or contact Rhonda Maloney at 610-858-9236.

**TRAVEL WITH AMITY FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE TO HUNTERDON HILLS**



**PLAYHOUSE** to see the beloved television actress Joyce DeWitt star in “*I Left My Dignity in My Other Purse*” on Thursday, May 14. Price is \$85 (includes lunch and transportation). Depart from church parking lot at 9:30

A.M. sharp. Call Pat Roland at 484-557-4885. Reservation deadline is April 2. Everyone is invited to join us.

**HELP TO DECORATE THE SANCTUARY FOR EASTER.....**

If you would like to place an order for flowers to decorate the sanctuary on Easter, please complete the form below and return it in your regular offering envelope and mark the payment “Easter flowers”. In order to insure availability, we would like to have as many orders as possible by March 22. **Final day to order is Sunday, March 29.**



**NOTE: ALL FLOWERS ORDERED MUST REMAIN FOR THE 10:30 SERVICE**

**EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM**

**Yes, I/We would like to order the following:**

_____ Lilies (4 blooms+)	@ \$8.25	_____
_____ Daffodils (6” pot)	@ 7.50	_____
_____ Tulips (5 & 6 bloom)	@ 8.00	_____
_____ Azaleas	@ 14.00	_____
_____ Mums (7” pot)	@ 8.00	_____
	Total	\$_____

Information for bulletin: Given to the Glory of God—

\_\_\_\_\_ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ As a gift by \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## EASTER FOOD BASKETS.....

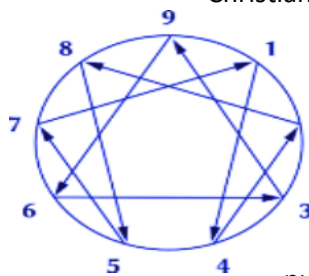
Social Ministry will be collecting items to fill five Easter Baskets to be given to those less fortunate in the Daniel Boone Middle School area. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex with the items needed.

Please bring your donations no later than April 5 and the baskets will be delivered to the school on April 6, 2020. You may also donate money to defray the costs of the hams. Thank you in advance for your participation.

**Did you know??** Our youth collected \$469.66 on Souper Bowl Sunday. This will be used by Hopewell Love to purchase food for the local food pantry.

## WOMEN'S GROUP –MARCH 24, 7 PM

Join us as we learn about a thing called the Enneagram. With roots in Christian oral tradition, the Enneagram might look a bit mysterious! It is a tool for self-discovery and powerful spiritual transformation. The Enneagram's 9 graces offer us helpful perspective on our spiritual journeys. Together we'll explore how we can come to see ourselves in a deeper, more transformative way. "The Enneagram's purpose is to help us uncover traps that keep us from living fully and freely." (Richard Rohr) Janeen Adil, from Hungry Soul Ministries, will lead us in our exploration! All are welcome!



## 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: Richard Saylor, Kristin Saylor, Mya Saylor, Ruby Saylor, Chase Saylor, Warren Saylor, Donna Saylor, Faye Schadt, Jeffrey Schaeffer, Joan Schaeffer, Jan Schell, Tim Schell, Goldie Schittler, Connie Schittler, Bradley Schittler. 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: Makayla Becker, Kathy Carpani, Gail Clifford, Melanie D'Alessandro, Diane Davis, Barbara DePrefontaine, Terry Eberly, Emily, David Friedman, Keith Greusel, Helen Guss, Connie Hunter, Terry Johnson, Sue Keay, Jane Kinder, Jean Korf, Rich Kucharik, Beverly McClurg, Jacob Oister, Joseph Pollock, Gloria Rhoads, Antonio Rodriquez, Anne Schlear, Karlina Schmidt, Bev Schoffstall, Ellen Sheeler, Eva Thomas, Gerry Trauger, Elaine Woudstra, family and friends of Kim Toner, Victor Gonzalez, Kent High, Elena Demos, Margaret Kukac, Larry Savage, and all others listed below or those we name in our hearts: Cynthia Adam, Jake Campbell, Jeannie Crass, Karin DiSanto, Ron Glaser, Diana Gower, Simon H., Charles Heffner, Larry Herbst, Bobby Hubert, Robin Hynes, Terry & Jean Koehler, Ruth Kresge, Linda Loshnowsky, Karen McGavin, Edith Moyer, Jerry Muller, Ron Mutter, Richard Pool, Richard Randolph, James Rhoads, June Rhoads, Lenore Robinson, Gabriel Schulze, Sr., John Shaner, Vernet Spence-Brown, Jason Stalneck, Jane Williams; homebound -- Peggy Burns, Jennie Clouser, Carol DeLong, Jan Haas, Arlene Hildebeitel, Alma Shirey, Patsy Smale, Dale Szajek, Pauline Trout, Richard Wise.

**BREAD, BOWL, BIBLE—Sundays, March 15, 22 & 29.....**

*Let My People Go: Plumbing & Pondering the Exodus Plagues*  
(The Plagues: Present, Past, and Yet to come)

At

St. Paul's, Lobachsville

Led by Pastor Chris DeForest, pastor of Trinity, Kutztown

Study 4—5 P.M.      Soup – 5—6 P.M.      Study 6—7 P.M.

Can you recall your first encounter with the Egyptian plagues from Exodus? Was it in Sunday School? VBS? An annual family viewing of "The Ten commandments"? Did they scare you? Fascinate you? Gross you out? In this weird and wondrous age, when we find ourselves in daily worry over so many things that plague us: health, work, climate, government, civility, about who God is for (or against) and what's at stake – what's it really take to bring change to bear and power to light. Perhaps the time is come for us to dig down deep into these dramatic and liturgical tales, to find our place in the plagues: present, past, and yet to come.

**DID YOU KNOW**



Your offering (weekly, monthly, or semi-monthly) can be directly deposited into St. Paul's

account? No more writing checks or remembering your envelope. If you are interested in this program, please call the church office. 610-385-6616

**SATISFY YOUR SWEET TOOTH**...use the form in the narthex to order your homemade Easter eggs. Peanut butter, coconut cream and butter cream will be available -- \$6 per ½ lb.; \$12 per lb. Deadline to order is Sunday, March 22.

Proceeds benefit the Mission Trip.



- |      |   |      |  |
|------|---|------|--|
| 3/2  | Ryan Davidheiser<br>Ted Graefe<br>Maggie Moyer<br>Nancy Moyer       | 3/18 | Rose Stalnecker<br>Makenzy Wunderlich                        |
| 3/3  | John Bonslaver<br>Hadleigh Dominick                                 | 3/19 | Dorothy Brown<br>Millie Faber<br>Brad Mengel<br>Bonnie Moser |
| 3/4  | Joseph Dowd<br>Elizabeth Mosteller                                  | 3/20 | Wendy Yambor<br>Grace Oister<br>Gary Weidner                 |
| 3/5  | Mackenzie Gougler   | 3/21 | Evan Dominick<br>Alivia Fretz<br>Aidan Sonon                 |
| 3/6  | John Meade<br>Al Monroe   | 3/22 | Deanna McCleary<br>Alice Sprague<br>Jackson Ware             |
| 3/7  | Al Forster<br>Dylan Marquette<br>Renee Waring                       | 3/23 | Ryan Levengood<br>Kay Reber<br>Sue Schweikert                |
| 3/9  | Emma Rose Hackett   | 3/25 | Ethan Berger<br>Matthew Cloutier<br>Connor Szajek-Keppel     |
| 3/10 | Charles Drey<br>Jessie Kucharik<br>Rhonda Maloney<br>Ryann Michener | 3/26 | Pam Cope<br>Ryleigh Hennessey<br>Carl Wenzel                 |
| 3/11 | Ryan Berger<br>Angela Fonte<br>Pam Wolfe                            | 3/27 | Gretchen Parduski<br>Joan Weil                               |
| 3/12 | Aliyah Lubrano<br>Arianna Lubrano<br>Calvin Sheeler                 | 3/28 | Zoey Hafer<br>JoAnne Oxenford                                |
| 3/13 | Natalie Ridge<br>Zoe Walt   | 3/29 | John English<br>Faye Schadt                                  |
| 3/14 | Lucas Stumhofer   | 3/30 | Charlotte Beil<br>Jacob Oister<br>Karla Rosenbusch           |
| 3/15 | Madison Albright  | 3/31 | Jen Davidheiser  |
| 3/16 | Wayne Grace<br>George Rhoades                                       |      |  |
| 3/17 | Bill Lerch<br>Eleanor Millard                                       |      |  |
| 3/18 | Joe Koury   |      |  |

## HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY TO –

Cesar & Amy Bartra	3/1	29 yrs.
Gary & Robin James	3/10	30 yrs.
David & Tina Hackett	3/13	19 yrs.
Henry & Gloria Rhoads	3/16	52 yrs.
Greg & Norma Godon	3/24	30 yrs.
Barry & JoAnne Oxenford	3/27	44 yrs.



### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS starts March 8

Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Saturday night! We will understand if you are a little bleary-eyed on Sunday after losing an hour!

## PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR IS NOW OPEN.....

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



# SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

## Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly 2020 “We Are Church Together”



INFORMATION SESSION LIVESTREAM via YouTube

With Bishop Samuel Zeiser  
- Live from The Kalahari Resort -  
Thursday, March 19 at 10:30 AM

Join Bishop Zeiser and others on the 2020 Synod Assembly Planning Team, LIVE via YouTube Livestream from the Kalahari Resort. This Information Session will give you the latest details on:

- The election of a new Bishop
- Ministry table displays
- What will happen when
- The speakers, presenters and special guests
- Who should attend and why
- How to download and use the Guidebook app

This YouTube video stream will be available live at the date and time listed above; or you can view it anytime later, as a recording.

To watch it, either live or later: simply search this name on Google: "NEPS Assembly 2020 Info Session", or type this into your internet browser: <https://youtu.be/RwZFsLahD34>.

For event details about Synod Assembly 2020, including to register and to book a room at Kalahari, you can visit the Assembly 2020 Event page at <http://nepasynod.org/event/assembly-2020>.

For all information needed for the Assembly itself (nomination forms, resolution forms, agenda, etc.), you can visit the Assembly 2020 Information page at <http://nepasynod.org/assembly2020-info>.

### Festival Worship at the Assembly

On Friday morning there will be a Eucharist with Bishop Zeiser preaching and music led by Bobby Siegfried. The offering will be for the World Hunger Appeal.

On Saturday morning there will be a Eucharist in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women. Dr. Catherine Ziel will preach, and music will be led by Deacon Tom Yenser and a brass quintet.

## Pianist becomes Organist at Trinity, Bangor



Before Easter our organist/music director resigned at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bangor, PA. We let it be known to the community through FB, emails and the synod newsletter that we needed an organist/music director. For a few weeks we had substitute organists with no choir director. The choir continued to practice, and we managed to do some a *capella* pieces for a few weeks. The choir improved dramatically, feeling determined to sing with much more focus and dedication.

Within weeks we had some inquiries from pianists and organists. We interviewed Ms. Bethann Kratzer. She is an excellent pianist, but she admitted that she didn't play the organ. She does play 8-10 other instruments. We hired her for the summer on a trial basis, since we do worship services during the summer in our air-conditioned fellowship hall and only use the piano for that worship.

In addition, we asked her if she was willing to take organ lessons from Dr. Michael Krentz over the summer. We offered to pay for 10 lessons and to continue paying for 1 lesson a quarter over the next year. She agreed to try. By the end of the summer she had "fallen in love" with the organ and is becoming an accomplished organist. She now plays the organ for worship in our sanctuary, works with our Sunday School children, leads the choir, and plays the piano when needed. We are thrilled with her willingness to try and learn the organ, her ability to work with the choir, and her outstanding piano playing. We have hired her as our full-time music director. She continues to take organ lessons on her own and learn the instrument.

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA  
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