

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
548 OLD SWEDE ROAD
DOUGLASSVILLE PA 19518
Telephone (610) 385-6616
Fax (610) 385-6690
www.stpaulsdouglassville.com
info@stpaulsdouglassville.com
The Rev. Gregory W. Frey, Pastor



NOVEMBER, 2020

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings; for it is well for the heart to be strengthened by grace... (Hebrews 13:7-9)

He remains essentially a con man although he pretends to be an advocate for regular people and just when you thought he was gone he came back and is the same person he always was.

At the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic former (and may I add disgraced!) televangelist Jim Bakker on his new television program, The Jim Bakker Show (Seriously, who gave this guy another TV show!?) began advocating and selling a product he and some “naturalist” claimed prevented and cured coronavirus. The attorney general of New York issued a cease and desist letter and he has been sued by the State of Missouri with other states beginning to join the case for selling unapproved drugs. Let me explain why I believe this kind of person is incredibly dangerous.

For those of you lucky enough not to know or remember Jim Bakker he had the hit “Christian” television ministry in the 1970’s and 80s with his mascara tear-smudged wife Tammy Faye. In addition to their TV ministry they put their name behind all kinds of shady products such as a line of survival gear and products for the end of the world which, conveniently in his broadcast, he suggested was coming soon. At the height of the PLT Club’s success, the acronym stood for Praise The Lord now parodied

as Pass The Loot, they operated Heritage USA, a now-defunct Christian theme park in Fort Mill, South Carolina.

Bakker fell under the suspicions of the FCC after evidence emerged of his habitual and flagrant misuse of contributed funds. Further investigations uncovered a long history of fraudulent acts, tax evasion and finally, the payment of hush money to former secretary Jessica Hahn to cover up a bizarre sexual affair. Bakker repeatedly described the investigation as a witch hunt orchestrated by the devil to invalidate his ministry and the gospel. Eventually, Bakker was convicted of fraudulent activity and imprisoned serving 5 years of an 8-year sentence.

I know what you are thinking, of all the fraudulent hucksters out there why does this guy bother me so much? Well, this guy’s crimes are personal for me.

My mother became an avid supporter of the PTL ministries, watching it on TV and sending money into this charlatan. She believed his ministries were legitimate, his message about Jesus was compelling and the money she sent him (money we really could not afford to be without) would be used to further the good causes of people she was deceived into believing cared about her even though there was nothing about their lives or lifestyle which might have suggested that they were like her at all. Bakker took our money, betrayed my mom’s trust and deeply damaged her faith because he believed she and millions of other like her were suckers ripe to be exploited. That is why this guy bothers me so much.

I am also annoyed about this guy because I entertain the opinion that though people can make mistakes, sometimes very serious mistakes we call crimes, they have the capacity to change. I thought that Mr. Bakker’s conviction and prison experience had led him to see the error of his ways. This optimism concerning his reform was fuel in part by Bakker’s publishing a book while in prison titled, “I was Wrong.” But it was actually the rest of us who believed he had the capacity to change who were wrong. As soon Bakker saw an opportunity, the worldwide pandemic crisis, he immediately went into huckster mode because people do not exist for him except as suckers for him to take advantage of. Some people will never change.

And I share this with you as a pastoral warning. My mom was taken in by this guy. As far as I know, if she were alive today, he may have taken my mom in again with his snake-oil coronavirus cure. Sometimes we would rather deny the deception than acknowledge we were taken in. People like Bakker are counting on this. But people like Bakker do not have the capacity to change, their history is their destiny, they do not care about you except in so far as you serve their interests. And they do not care how much damage they do to you, your family, or the world.

As Christians we must not support or align with people like Jim Bakker. They are not Christian in any way; they do not care about us and they will do as much harm to us as suits their personal interests. This is true no matter what claims they make. Look beneath the surface of these people and most of us know it is true.

We must do all we can to protect one another from the exploitation of manipulation. The damage done by individuals like Jim Bakker is immense because they have no regard for other people; they are completely self-fixated. Other people do not exist for them except as others serve their interests. Christians must stand as a corrective to people like this as we dedicate ourselves to the real gospel of Jesus characterized by love, compassion, and a tireless commitment to people other than ourselves.

People like Jim Bakker never change, but thank God Jesus is also the same yesterday, today and forever. —Pastor Frey



Reservations Required

Our annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, November 15 at 9:15 AM. This year, we will be holding a combined in-person/Zoom/phone-in/live stream meeting! Since seating will be limited in the sanctuary to maintain the appropriate distance, reservations will be required if you would like to attend in person., even if you already have a reservation for the 8 am or 10:30 am worship service. If you are planning on attending the meeting via live stream or by phone PLEASE call the office to let us know (or send an email) so we will know the number of people attending the meeting for the purposes of fulfilling the quorum requirement.

--WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER--

November 1 8:00 & 10:30 – Holy Communion
Those laid to rest by this congregation who will be remembered on this All Saints' Sunday:



Donald Weber*	June Rhoads*
Anne Schlear*	Janice Haas
E. Gerald Levensgood	Dorothy Brown
Pauline Trout	*Non-member

November 5	9:00 A.M. – Holy Communion (high risk)
November 7	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
November 8	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion
November 12	9:00 A.M. – Holy Communion (high risk)
November 14	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
November 15	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion
November 19	9:00 A.M. – Holy Communion (high risk)
November 21	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
November 22	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion
	6:00 P.M. – Community Thanksgiving Service
November 28	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
November 29	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion

If you do not have internet access for the livestream service (8:00 A.M.), you may use a phone-in option. If you are on the mailing list for our weekly bulletin, the number to call will be included. If you would like the phone number (it is different each week), please call the church office.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING.....

On Sunday night November 22nd at 6:00 PM we will join in a community celebration of Thanksgiving with St Mark's Lutheran and St Paul's UCC here at St. Paul's Lutheran.



Call the church office to reserve a seat.

your parents teach the Small Catechism to you in your home? Well, that was the original intent.

My synod committee, the Faith Formation Resource Ministry Team, often offers Lutheran Basics courses. Sometimes this involves Luther's doctrines of The Two Kingdoms or The Priesthood of All Believers, etc., but in 2021 we are going to offer ONLINE workshops on Basics of the Christian Faith. If you were asked to name what you consider the basics, what would you name? This is what Martin Luther considered basic: The Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, The Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. And so this is what he included in the Small Catechism. These are the basics. (Okay for you Luther scholars, he also includes the Office of the Keys, Confession and Morning and Evening prayers.)

We are about to move into the study of the Ten Commandments in my class. Do you remember all ten? Do you growl when you see the Ten Commandments numbered differently than we do? (Only when I want to print a handout for kids, and I can't use the one that includes graven images as a separate commandment!) I think it's a bit ironic or maybe coincidental that the day I am (was) teaching the Ten Commandments, the Sunday School is (was) teaching about the Greatest Commandment in Matthew 22:34-46 (the gospel we would have read if it were not Reformation Sunday). Not only that, but the Greatest Commandment was actually the underlying theme for our summer Vacation Bible School about service. And what is the Greatest Commandment? "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your mind, all your soul and all your strength; . . . and the second is like it—Love your neighbor as yourself." (See Deuteronomy 6:5, Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 22:37-39, Mark 12:29-31, Luke 10:27-- which precedes the Good Samaritan parable.) We summarized the passage even further: "Love God; Love Others." (Maybe you have seen this sign on my office door.) I guess we can't get more basic than this. We all know this, so why can't we live this? Oh, yeah, sin.

The one important thing about the Ten Commandments is that if we can keep the first commandment—"You shall have no other gods before me" (Luther's Explanation: We are to fear and love God above all things)—we would really be keeping ALL the commandments. If we put God first above everything else, there would be no stealing, killing,

dishonor of parents, lying, cheating, coveting. If we put God first, we would love our neighbor and would help and support them in all their needs. I love that Luther in his explanations includes not only the "do not's" but what each commandment says we should "do." The Small Catechism is not just for teenagers. It is for people of every age. Some even like it for devotional use. Just a thought. Let me know if you would like a copy.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS.....

Sunday school information:

Our Sunday school and confirmation class links are available on our web site and through our eblast, but here they are again. Please join us!

Sunday school for preschool/elementary Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86723392636?pwd=T05rYnp0VIRzRnlmWFFsQ1Z4dmZPQT09>

Meeting ID: 867 2339 2636

Passcode: 665304

Confirmation 1 (Grades 7-9) Link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7013435262?pwd=cnJDa1IEakR1Y1hpaEJZMVZhQU93UT09>

Meeting ID: 701 343 5262

Passcode: 4VsL1Q

Confirmation 2 (Grade 10) (Same as Elementary, then moved to breakout room)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86723392636?pwd=T05rYnp0VIRzRnlmWFFsQ1Z4dmZPQT09>

Meeting ID: 867 2339 2636

Passcode: 665304

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE.....



We are happy to announce that five young people are joining us as communing members of God's family. We welcome to the Lord's Table:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Jackson Albright | Gabriel Luo |
| McKenna Detwiler | Jace Michener |
| Emily Gaskins | |

They received instruction online and in person in October. Please remember them in your prayers as they take this new step in their Christian journey.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE.....

We will finally celebrate the affirmation of faith of our 12 confirmands and their families at a special service on November 1 (All Saints Day) at 1:00 PM. Although we are restricting in person worship to immediate family members the service will be live streamed so extended family and congregation members may also participate.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY – NOV. 1.....

We will be placing lit votive candles in front of the church in memory of those who have died over the previous year (since November 1, 2019) and invite you to give us the names of friends and family members who have died (during the past year) who you would like remembered in this way. These people do not have to have been members of St. Paull's. Please call the church office (610) 385-6616 before Oct. 29 to add a name.



HELP NEEDED FOR FALL CLEAN-UP.....

Our fall clean-up will be held on Saturday, November 7th from 8:00 AM to noon. (The rain date will be Saturday, November 14th.) We need volunteers! Everyone is welcome. Bring rakes and work gloves if you have them. Hope you can join us!



SOCIAL MINISTRY UPDATE.....

We will not be collecting items to fill Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets for four families in the Daniel Boone School District. Due to the pandemic, it was suggested gift cards be used for the less fortunate families in the school district. . We hope to present \$75.00 worth of gift cards to the families so they can purchase food for their Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. It is requested that the cards be purchased at Redner's or Boyer's Market in Birdsboro.

Please send any denomination of gift cards to the Church Office and indicate they are in lieu of food baskets. If we can make four families have a better holiday season, let's do it. Always, our thanks for helping us out in our endeavors.

WE 'RE DECORATING WITH POINSETTIAS ON CHRISTMAS EVE.....

At this time we are planning on having in-person worship on Christmas Eve, but even if this changes, our sanctuary will be decorated for our virtual service.

Use the form printed below if you would like to order a poinsettia. Orders must be placed early to ensure availability. **Try to place your order by Sunday, December 6, but final deadline to order is Sunday, Dec. 13.**

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Please order _____poinsettias (5 blooms +) at \$8.75 per plant.

Amount enclosed \$_____.

Information for the bulletin: Given to the Glory of God:

_____In memory of _____

by _____

_____In honor of _____

by _____

_____As a gift by _____

Name _____



WEEKLY PRAYER SERVICE—Wednesdays—9:00 A.M.

Our Wednesday morning prayer group will resume when the pandemic restrictions are lifted. 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. Please include in your prayers this month: Danielle Mickletz, Denise Millard, Eleanor Millard, Brian Miller, Rebecca Miller, Jared Miller, Cory Miller, Evan Miller, Janice Miller, Beatrice Mohr, Al Monroe, Lorrie Monroe, 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: Makayla Becker, Ethan Berger, Avery Boorse, Michael Burd, Charles Burns, Carole, Barbara DePrefontaine, Dan Drust, Emily, David Friedman, Gary G., Lee Hart, Arlene Hildebeitel, Connie Hunter, Terry Johnson, Sue Keay, Garry Kopp, Jean Korf, Kim Koury, Ralson Kutz, Wendy Magargal, Ray Mattis, Richard Pool, Henry Rhoads, Pat Roland, Matthew S., Audrey Serrian, Walter Shoffstall, Patsy Smale, John Smith, Bob Wendel, Beth Yoder, Sandi Zelinski, family and friends of Stefanie, Dorothy Brown, and all others listed below or those we name in our hearts: Jake Campbell, Karin DiSanto, Ron Glaser, Diana Gower, Charles Heffner, Larry Herbst, Bobby Hubert, Linda Loshnowsky, Karen McGavin, Edith Moyer, Jerry Muller, Ron Mutter, Richard Randolph, Lenore Robinson, John Shaner, Vernet Spence-Brown, Jason Stalneck, Craig Williams, Jane Williams; homebound -- Peggy Burns, Jennie Clouser, Carol DeLong, Betty High, Arlene Hildebeitel, Ellen Sheeler, Alma Shirey, Dale Szajek, Richard Wise.



- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Nov. 1 Brett Simmons | Nov. 17 Blake Grim |
| Nov. 3 Jeanette Forster | Barbara Kunkel |
| Nov. 4 Alex Kutz | Jim Sarro |
| Elizabeth Yoder | Nov. 18 Matthew Fusco |
| Jameson Young | Henry Szajek |
| Nov. 5 Lee Walley | Nov. 20 Dominick DeNardo |
| Nov. 6 Kiley Davidheiser | Aubrey Garman |
| Nov. 7 Brynn Detwiler | Lauren Musetti |
| Leah Detwiler | Nov. 22 Liz Haring |
| Mary Ellen Hoffert | Christopher Lynagh |
| Chelsea Knabb | Michael McCormick |
| Nov. 8 Jeff Angstadt | William Stalneck |
| Jerry MacMullin | Nov. 23 Diane Stauffer |
| Nov. 9 Alexander Prizer | Nov. 24 Sean Kochert |
| Fred Gaskins | Jeane Serrian |
| Nov. 11 Thomas Beil | Nov. 25 Betty High |
| Kendra Day | Nov. 26 Meredith Gaskins |
| Letisha Leahy | Nov. 27 Elena Eidell |
| Donald Levengood | Jenna Hendricks |
| Sean Sonon | Nov. 28 Dana Hickey |
| Nov. 12 Torie Shaffer | Craig Yambor |
| Nov. 13 Piper Braun | Nov. 29 Jacob Beil |
| Brian Kupp | Austin Bonetz |
| Nov. 14 Nathan Haring | Kynlee Coyle |
| Nov. 15 Kenneth Adams | Cassandra Johnson |
| Nov. 16 Sandra Berger | Stephanie Szajek |
| Christian Cicala | Nov. 30 Joyce Drey |
| Nov. 17 Amelia Boyd | Harold Grim |
| Emily Gaskins | Michael Shingle |

CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE CELEBRATING WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.....

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|---------|
| John & Claudia McCalicher | 11/5 | 43 yrs. |
| Russell & Elizabeth Burns | 11/7 | 50 yrs. |
| Barry & Susanne Leier | 11/8 | 51 yrs. |
| Gary & Cindy Weidner | 11/12 | 32 yrs. |

Al & Lorrie Monroe	11/13	38 yrs.
John & Tara Bologna	11/17	30 yrs.
Bob & Joan Wendel	11/17	64 yrs.
John & Pam Wolfe	11/20	44 yrs.
Barry & Vicci Eidell	11/22	45 yrs.
Brad & Mindy Haring	11/24	30 yrs.
Lou & Val Day	11/25	20 yrs.
Tom & Deb Longstaff	11/26	15 yrs.

ADVENT ANGEL GIVING TREE.....



Our Advent Giving Tree is in the Narthex. Please join us in helping children celebrate the season by donating a gift. Select an angel, purchase the gift, secure the angel to the wrapped gift bow and place it under the tree. Then take a new angel from the basket of angels and place on the tree.

A Social Ministry member will be there to assist you before each Service. OR, please contact either Jane or Barb to review the gift items to purchase, select one, and we will arrange to pick it up from your front porch. We ask that all gifts be under the tree by Sunday, November 15, 2020. When completed, we will have a beautiful Giving Tree of Angels for the Christmas Season. Please call Jane Kinder 610-385-6244, or Barbara Kunkel 609-731-4368, with questions. Thank You!



There are not enough words to tell you how grateful I am for the celebration of my 50 years. It was the most touching service and the picture you gave me is absolutely beautiful. When the banner goes behind the choir, it will be amazing.

Thanks to all of you, and, it has been a blessing for me to be here for all this time. Working with Rev. Larry Schell and Rev. Greg Frey has been such a blessing and privilege for me. Thank you for all of your cards and good wishes. Thank you again, and, I hope to be here for another 50???????

Love to all of you, Kitty

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>All Saints</i> 8 & 10:30 —Holy Communion 9:15—Sunday School 1 PM--Confirmation	2 10 AM—Bible Study 7 PM—Christian Ed.	3 Quilting	4 10 AM—Bible Study 5:30—Girl Scouts	5 9 AM—Worship for high risk Holy Communion	6 10 AM—Bible Study	7 8—Noon--Fall clean-up 6 PM—Holy Communion
8 8 & 10:30 —Holy Comm 9:15—Sunday School 9:30--Finance	9 10 AM—Bible Study	10 Quilting 6:30—Child Dev.	11 10 AM—Bible Study 7 PM--Council	12 9 AM—Worship for high risk Holy Communion	13 10 AM—Bible Study	14 Rain date for Fall clean-up 6 PM—Holy Communion
15 8 & 10:30 —Holy Comm 9:15 AM—Annual Mtg.	16 10 AM—Bible Study	17 Quilting	18 10 AM—Bible Study 5:30—Girl Scouts	19 9 AM—Worship for high risk Holy Communion 10 AM—Social Min 7:30—Crime Watch	20 10 AM—Bible Study	21 7:30 AM--Property 6 PM—Holy Communion
22 8 & 10:30 —Holy Comm 9:15—Sunday School 6 PM—Thanksgiving Service	23 10 AM—Bible Study 6:30 P.M. – Bible Study	24 Quilting	25 10 AM—Bible Study	26 <i>Thanksgiving</i> 	27	28 6 PM—Holy Communion
29 8 & 10:30 —Holy Comm 9:15—Sunday School	30 10 AM—Bible Study	Council persons in charge of services— Michele Hensley, Jeff Duplak				

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Blessed to be a Blessing



The Church Board (council/consistory) of Zion's Union Church Maxatawny recently challenged its members to raise \$5,000 to help three local service agencies in these difficult times. The congregation has been blessed to be financially stable during the pandemic and the Board pledged to match any donations received from various church accounts.

Despite having only virtual on-line worship, thanks to the generous stewardship of its members over a three-month period the goal was exceeded and \$5,755 was received, which the Board matched for a total of \$11,510. The Salvation Army received \$4,642; Helping Harvest of Berks County received \$4,146; and Second Harvest of Lehigh County received \$2,722.

Zion's Union Church was organized in 1826. In 1987, under the guidance of UCC pastor Willis Heckler, Zion's helped forge a new concept known as "shared ministry," in which Lutheran and UCC worship services were merged and one pastor served both congregations. Things went so well that in 2013, under the leadership of Lutheran pastors Jimmy Lee Werley and Herb Michel, the congregation took the further step of legally merging both congregations to become one of the very first "federated" congregations.

As a federated congregation, members take pride in being both Lutheran and UCC at one and the same time as the congregation is affiliated with both the ELCA and the United Church of Christ and supports both national churches 50/50 with their benevolence dollars. Zion's is currently served by Lutheran pastor Jeffrey Butz.

Thank You for Your Support!

Congregations of the Northeastern PA Synod have been faithful and generous in their mission support offerings throughout the months of COVID-19 restrictions. This strong support of synod-wide and church-wide ministries has sustained and invigorated mission endeavors in partnership with congregations across the ELCA.



Such a bold response in challenging times gives us confidence that the Triune God into whom we are baptized hears our relentless petition: Give us this day our daily bread.

Thanks be to God! And, thank you. Thank you for your regular mission support offerings. Thank you for your witness to new life in the Risen Jesus to neighbors near and far.

Bishop Samuel Zeiser

Learning Ministries Day 2021 Save the Date - January 23



On Saturday, January 23 Learning Ministries Day will be held via Zoom for the first time ever. We will offer three one-hour workshop sessions with over 15 workshop options total. Our keynote speaker will be Barbara Rossing, professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, where she has taught since 1994. She will be speaking on "Journeys through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today."

A \$25 fee will be charged for each participant which will include the keynote, three workshops of their choice, and a goodie bag mailed directly to their home. Satellite churches will be established for people without computer access to participate in a safe and socially distanced manner. Workshop descriptions will be available in November and registration will be open from December 1, 2020 to January 15, 2021 (Check the synod website at nepasynod.org).

Keep an eye out for additional learning opportunities provided by the Faith Formation Ministry Team starting in March 2021. Faith Formation Saturdays will be initiated as a monthly opportunity for any and all to gather and learn from the comfort of your own home.

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2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. nepsinfo1988@gmail.com.
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