



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

**OCTOBER, 2020**

I got a "Voter's Guide" in the mail a few weeks ago, you may have gotten one too. This guide is published by the Faith and Freedom Coalition which purports to speak on behalf of Christian values and promote these values in voting. As I look at the guide, I see a partisan document which has more to do with promoting a particular political party than representing the values of the biblical Jesus.

The guide did get me to thinking that I, as your pastor, should offer you my best guidance as you consider connecting your faith to your civic duty in voting. Jesus is not a Republican or a Democrat. In fact, Jesus' program does not fit neatly into any one political system, party, or platform. But Jesus' teaching concerning God's will for how we should live in community and the values we promote are, or at least should be, relevant to our decisions about which candidates support.

First, I want to say clearly and emphatically that you should vote. Christians recognize God's activity in the world, and we have a responsibility to also take up our role and responsibility in voting. Because of the importance of participation in this process our church has continued to be a public polling site even during the pandemic. Until this year I have always looked forward to casting my ballots in person at my place of polling.

In the spring primary the vast majority of ballots in the precinct polling at St. Paul's were received by mail. Mail-in balloting is a safe option for you and the poll workers (who are often retirees) and one you may consider during this continuing health crisis. If you are going to mail-in your ballot you need to apply to receive a ballot with the Berks County

Board of Elections (if you live in Berks County), be sure to use the "secrecy envelope" included with the ballot and mail it in as soon as possible. You can find everything you need to know about how to vote by going on the website of the county election board including: registering and checking voter registration status, find a polling place, or applying for an absentee/mail-in ballot.  
[www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Elections](http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Elections)

Let me say a word about my Christian expectations when voting, especially for president. I believe they are summarized in the following quote, *"When I vote, I'm not looking for a political savior. I've found my savior. I am looking for damage control. I'm voting for the person who I think will do the least amount of harm to the world. I'm looking to harness the principalities and powers that are hurting God's people."* (Shane Claiborne, Evangelical Christian Activist)

I understand God's work through the principalities and powers of this world as primarily having the power to restrain sin and minimize its damage. Sin is most succinctly defined as self-centeredness. This cannot be done by a leader who lacks the requisite humility. Humility is hard to find in most political candidates but the ability to recognize mistakes and change course is foundational to our Christian self-understanding. It is hard to imagine someone governing effectively who was unself-reflective, unable to change to meet new challenges or unwilling to admit when they made a mistake.

If I were to produce a voting guide I would do it differently than the guide sent out by the Faith and Freedom Coalition. That guide rates candidates based on answering questions that are more statement than questions. If I asked a question like, do you support the cruel practice of declawing cats, that is not really a question. I think a better voter's guide for Christians would allow Jesus to establish the criteria.

There are many issues we face which Jesus made no comments about; we speculate as to his position on these issues. But Jesus spoke very directly about other issues and these direct statements should have a powerful influence on our political decisions.

The Gospel of Matthew, the Gospel we have been reading this year, contains within it a voter's guide of sorts in a list of criteria Jesus

establishes as worthy of the Kingdom of God. (*The Kingdom of God is the reign or dominion of God brought by Jesus which the baptized already live in and will be brought to perfection in the age to come.*) In Matthew chapter 25 Jesus describes a scene when he himself will return and pass judgement on the earth and its people. In the course of this judgement the people will be separated to one side or the other “as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.”

The criteria for separation and judgment is what kind of relationship they have had with Jesus over the course of their lives. Some Christians today think their relationship with Jesus is really only a matter of belief, a confession of faith in Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior. Matthew’s Gospel takes issue with this narrow personalization of one’s relationship with Jesus. Such belief is the foundation of a Christian life, but something is to be built on the foundation. In Matthew, Jesus defines the criteria for judgment based on the relationship people have had with Jesus himself as he has chosen to be encountered in those with the greatest needs.

#### **Matthew 25:31-46**

<sup>31</sup> *‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a foreigner and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, “**Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.**” <sup>41</sup>Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and*

*his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a foreigner and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a foreigner or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, “**Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.**” <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’*

My pastoral guidance in your discernment concerning how your faith should influence your voting in November is to begin with this question, will the candidates enact policies and behave in a manner that makes it easier or harder to meet the criteria Jesus lays out for maintaining a relationship with him as he has determined to be found in solidarity with “the least of these members of his family?” I believe this consideration, how we actively encounter Jesus in our world, should be at the center of every decision we make but especially at times like these. We should not expect our elected officials to do the work of discipleship for us, but neither should we support those who work against these principles or make it more difficult for us to carry them out.

My guidance to you is to allow Jesus’ words in the above passage to be your guide. It is my hope and prayer that God will guide you in wise and faithful discernment of your Christian responsibility and opportunity to make voting decisions shepherded by your understanding of God’s will. I also pray for our nation and our world in these challenging times and I invite your prayers as well. But prayers are not a substitute for action and now is our time to act. God be with us all through this important process.

--Pastor Frey

**--WORSHIP IN OCTOBER--**

- October 1 9:00 A.M. –Holy Communion (high risk)
- October 3 6:00 P.M. – Outdoor Worship—Holy Communion/**Blessing of Animals**
- October 4 8:00 A.M. – Outdoor Worship—Holy Comm.  
10:30 A.M. – Outdoor Worship with Blessing of Animals
- October 8 9:00 A.M. – Holy Communion (high risk)
- October 10 6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
- October 11 8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion
- October 15 9:00 A.M. – Holy Communion (high risk)
- October 17 6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
- October 18 8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion
- October 22 9:00 A.M. – Holy Communion (high risk)
- October 24 6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
- October 25 8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion
- October 29 9:00 A.M. – Holy Communion (high risk)
- October 31 6:00 P.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.**

**WORSHIP IN THE PARKING LOT OCTOBER 3 & 4.....**

Our worship will be outside in the parking lot Saturday night and Sunday morning the first weekend of October. It is important to wear a mask and please bring your own chair to set up in accord with physical distancing. All services will be communion services. In case of rain, the outdoor services will be the following weekend.

**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

You are invited to bring your pets to be blessed to the 6:00 PM service (10/3) or the 10:30 AM service (10/4) in the parking lot. Pets do not need masks. October 4<sup>th</sup> is the feast of St. Francis of Assisi who celebrated animals and their partnership in God’s world.



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

**Funeral:** Aug. 29 – **Janice Haas**

**Wedding:** Sept. 19 – **Jarid Yanos & Jessica Eager**

**Memorial Fund** contributions in memory of **Gerald Levensgood** given by:  
 Ralph & Sophie Buchspics      Doris Bielfeldt  
 JoAnne Merkel                      Jackie Hurchalla  
 Ramona Kennedy                  Bob Fisher

**Agape Fund** contributions in memory of **Gerald Levensgood** given by:  
 Betty High                              Ralph & Robin Rohrbach

**Memorial Fund** contributions in memory of **Jan Haas** given by:  
 Pat Roland                              Quilters  
 Helen Strain                            Amity Friendship Circle

**Agape Fund** contribution in memory of **Jan Haas** given by: Anna Brown

**Agape Fund** contributions in memory of **Pauline Trout** given by:  
 Betty High                              Anna Brown  
 Ralph & Robin Rohrbach

**Memorial Fund** contribution given in memory of **Dorothy Brown** given by Len & Gerry Trauger

<b>--YTD Giving thru August 2020--</b>				
	<u>Jan- Aug,2019</u>	<u>Jan-Aug,2020</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>% chg.</u>
Offerings	\$ 239,829	\$ 239,612	- 216.	-0.09
Vision 2020 Contr.	500	39,976	39,476	98.74
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 240,329</b>	<b>\$ 279,588</b>	<b>39,259</b>	<b>14.04</b>

*thank you!*

Thanks to all who have been faithfully mailing their contributions to the church office and to those who signed up for electronic giving through Simply Giving.

## THOUGHTS.....by Joy Gerhart

### “God is Our Guide”

This was the theme for our Rally Day outdoor program this year. The weather was beautiful, we had at least 9 families who participated, and we had a lot of fun tromping around the church grounds looking for special items that the Bible verse clues and compass directions led us to. It's a good thing we didn't name it “God is our Compass,” because not all of the compasses were completely accurate and I wouldn't want to give God a bad name.

I did want to share with you some of the Bible verses I found about God guiding us, which I found inspirational. (The one I am citing first really jumped out at me because we used to give it to some students as a confirmation verse at a former parish I served.) Proverbs 3:5-6 says “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” (I balk at not leaning at all on my understanding, . . .oh well). Another version says “Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” The Psalms also refer to God as a guide: “Show me the right path O LORD, point out the road for me to follow” (25:4) and “The LORD is good and does what is right; he shows the proper path to those who go astray” (25:8). Of course, you all know the familiar quote from Psalm 119:105: “Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.”

So where is God guiding us? In Luke 1:79, in Zechariah's Song, he prophesies that through John the Baptist (his son, and preparer of the way for Jesus) God will “Guide our feet into the way of peace.” Jesus says in John 16:13, “the Spirit of truth . . .will guide you into all truth.” Truth and peace are good. What else does the Bible say? Micah 6:8 say “He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God!” I could probably stop here, but I won't. One more: Matthew 25:31-46. You know this one—the “sheep and the goats parable”—feed the hungry, clothe the naked, help the sick, visit those in prison. We could add the Sermon on the Mount passage in Matthew 5-7 which encourages us to love our enemies among other

things which are REALLY hard to do. [Pastor Frey is doing a Bible study on this, by the way.]

Back to the question, “Where is God guiding us?” I think God is guiding us to and through God's kingdom, God's domain, the world or reality where God's will is done and forgiveness abounds. We have been hearing many parables in the last couple months that Jesus told about God's kingdom. Sometimes it sounds like Never Neverland, not a world we've experienced, certainly not a world stricken with Covid-19. But maybe it is a world we have experienced, at least seen glimmers of, when we are forgiven or forgive, when we are helped by another or when we help someone, when we feel the community banded together for a good and just cause. I think the Bible is our compass that God uses to help guide us through these turbulent times and into God' kingdom, which is NOT a FUTURE possibility, but a PRESENT REALITY here and now. May you experience God's kingdom now!

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS.....

**Sunday School Classes...**This fall our Sunday School will be quite different. We have already started our multi-age and grade class on September 20, led by Faith Casciano and Deb Smith with Jared Miller (our “wise guy”) and other St. Paul's SCS teachers serving as substitutes. Our Zoom headquarters is the church library, and we hope to have well over 30 participants online. Many attended our Rally Day program, commonly known as our kick off of the Sunday School year and picked up material that will be used each Sunday at 9:15 am for the Zoom lesson. It's not too late if you are still interested in being part of the Sunday morning Zoom experience. Just call the church office and ask for a student pack of material. By now the zoom link should be on our website, but please be sure to give us your email address so we can contact you about any special materials, activities, or announcements. We still have children's SPARK Story Bibles to give you FREE to help you follow the lessons. Just call the church office if you need one.

**The Adult Sunday School class** at 9:15 A.M. will be a ZOOM class focusing on two books about the ministry of Jesus by Vanderbilt University Professor Amy-Jill Levine. Levine is a practicing Jew and an

expert on the historical Jesus. She brings a unique perspective to the study of Jesus and his first century Jewish worldview. The books by Dr. Levine are available to enhance this study and can be picked up at the church office. Call the church office for the ZOOM meeting info. and password.

### Confirmation classes...



We are holding two confirmation classes this fall. One is for youth in grades 7-9, led by Meridith Gaskins and Kathy Jablonski. The youth will study the Old Testament for the first half of the school year and the New Testament in the second half. The tenth grade class, led by Joy Gerhart this fall, will be covering Martin Luther's Small Catechism and Lutheran History. All classes are being offered through Zoom, and the zoom links should be available on our website and Eblast. Both classes meet on Sundays at 9:15 am. Please call the church office if your son or daughter has not received the internet link to the classes.

### CROP WALK 2020.....

We will have a Crop Walk this year! But our walk will be virtual rather than in person. You have two options for a safe Crop Walk in 2020. You can join us in meeting at St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church on Ben Franklin Highway (next to Keystone Villa) at 12:15 PM on October 11. We will walk the Schuylkill River Trail with masks and physical distancing. OR you can form small groups or individuals and families to conduct a walk either on October 11<sup>th</sup> or another time. All money raised goes to Church World Service (disaster and refuge relief) and the Southeast Berks Ministerium emergency fund.

Begin by visiting the walk website at: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/birdsboropa> and register for the walk. You can then send sponsorship requests to your friends, church and family by email or on social media. Coronavirus has disrupted so many things it is vitally important not to let it take our ministry of care away from us. Participate by visiting the website or you can also contact Pastor Frey at [gfrey@stpaulsdouglassville.com](mailto:gfrey@stpaulsdouglassville.com) or (610) 385-6616 with any questions or participation ideas.

### WORLD HUNGER MESSAGE

It seems like the whole world has changed in the last six months, more than we ever would have expected. It has affected most of us in some way, illness, lost job, and/or worry about the future.

The news shows long lines at food banks. Many people, have had problems worrying about feeding their families in the past. Can you imagine how they must feel now? They may not have money for rent (or mortgage), doctors, and once again food.



ELCA World Hunger is always there to help in any way possible. Please, in these troubling times, remember the less fortunate and contribute whatever you can to ELCA World Hunger. You can include it in your weekly envelopes or send separately to the church. We, can and will, make a difference.

Thank you for your past support.

### ST. PAUL'S CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE.....

Our Congregation will again make a difference for children of Berks County incarcerated and returning citizens this Advent Season. Although we gather your gifts for the children before Advent, they will be given to The Berks County Connection Program to be given to the children of incarcerated inmates through their Family Connections program in the early Advent season.



As you may know the Berks Connection serves to lessen the negative impact on children and families affected by parental incarceration. The organization believes that those incarcerated should never be prisoners of their past. Their experience is a life lesson not a life sentence. They aim to improve lives in our community by:

**Building HOPE      Creating OPPORTUNITIES**  
**Providing SECOND CHANCES      Strengthening CONNECTIONS**

Through our Social Ministry, we plan to place our Advent Giving Tree in the Narthex by Sunday, October 11 **AND** we will also have a virtual Advent Giving Tree. We will collect gifts in two ways:

1. As we did last year, the tree in the Narthex will be decorated with angels, each annotated with the name, age, and sex of a child under the age of 18, along with the name of a gift that would best suit that child. It is important to know that this gift will most probably be the only gift this child receives. The angel tag will also be numbered for our tracking purposes. Interested families take one angel from the tree, purchase the gift, tape the angel to the wrapped gift then 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. We ask that all gifts be placed under the tree by Sunday, November 8, 2020.
2. **For those who are attending services virtually, please email [bakunkel1946@ptd.net](mailto:bakunkel1946@ptd.net) or call Jane Kinder 610-385-6244 or Barbara Kunkel 609-731-4368, to let us know that you would like to participate. Once we receive the list of needed gifts with children's names, one of our Social Ministry members will then contact you to review the gifts needed so that you may select one to purchase and wrap. We will then arrange pickup from your front door on a date convenient to you before Sunday, November 8, 2020.**

Once completed, we will make certain that Angels are placed on the tree representing each gift. We will have a beautiful Giving Tree of Angels for the Christmas Season.

We would really appreciate your participation in this ministry. Last year we collected 180 Christmas gifts from you, our very generous congregation!

Please call either Jane Kinder or Barbara Kunkel with any questions you may have. We hope to have another successful Advent Giving event. Thank You!

The Social Ministry Committee thanks those who supported the school supplies collection for students at the Daniel Boone Middle School.

**CANCELLED**

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Our annual Christmas Bazaar which has been taking place at St. Paul's for more than 60 years has been cancelled this year due to the pandemic.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!**  
**Sunday, November 15, 2020**

9:15 A.M.

This will be a combined in-person and Zoom meeting. Reservations will be necessary if you plan to attend in person. We will also need to know if you will be attending the online Zoom meeting or on the phone so we can be sure a quorum is present. More details will follow.

## 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. Paul's. We will place a candle in their memory and have a tribute to them during the service. Please call the church office (610) 385-6616 to add the name.



Note to families of church members who have passed away during the past year: Please supply a photo of your loved one.



**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: John Meehan, Kathy Meehan, Donna Meloy, Cynthia Meng, Ann Mengel, Bradley Mengel, Matthew Mengel, JoAnne Merkel, Karen Merkel, Charles Merkle, Christopher Michener, Jill Michener, Jace Michener, Maya Michener, Gavin Michener, Ryann Michener. 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, Angela Bell, Ethan Berger, Avery Boorse, Michael Burd, Charles Burns, Carole, Barbara DePrefontaine, Emily, David Friedman, Gary G., Lee Hart, Sara Hartline, Arlene Hildebeitel, Connie Hunter, Terry Johnson, Sue Keay, Garry Kopp, Jean Korf, Kim Koury, Ralson Kutz, Wendy Magargal, Ray Mattis, Richard Pool, Walter Shoffstall, Audrey Serrian, Patsy Smale, Stefanie, Bob Wendel, Beth Yoder, Sandi Zelinski, family and friends of Dorothy Brown, Jan Haas, June Rhoads, 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.



10/1	Briella Eisenhard Everett Frey Justin Frey	10/14	Kitty Varady Cooper Vernon
10/2	Tara Bologa Taylor Davidheiser Debra McCoy	10/15	Brian Gougler Elisha Pitman Gerry Trauger
10/3	Kristine DePrefontaine Peggy Emery Myro Roman Wendi Strain	10/16	Karen Marquette Katie Sowers Alexander Stanley
10/4	Isaac Cope Rich Saylor	10/17	Evan Miller Thomas Morrow
10/6	Pat McClafferty Judy Trout Cooper Walt Marian Zaffary	10/18	Cheryl Overly
10/7	Owen Berger Clara Britton Jennie Clouser Carolyn DiSandro	10/19	Hayden Hainsey Katelin Hendricks
10/8	Jack Cooke Kaitlyn Venn	10/21	Bea Mohr
10/9	Zachary Freitag Matthew Poole	10/22	Vivienne Poux Karen Schreier
10/10	David Lau	10/23	Paul Muschick Paul Reber
10/12	Nathan Vernon	10/24	Russ Hartline Barbara Keim John Schroeder Len Trauger
10/13	Carole Barbary	10/25	Frank Jablonski
10/14	JoAnne Merkel	10/27	Barry Oxenford Lauren Sarro
		10/28	Sally Rhoads Emma Serrian
		10/31	Barry Eidell

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO –**

Matthew & Karen Brown	10/1	37 yrs.
Brandon & Denise Price	10/2	10 yrs.
Brian & Rebecca Miller	10/4	23 yrs.
Carl & Lois Wenzel	10/5	35 yrs.

Tim & Rebecca Oister	10/9	11 yrs.
Evan & Jenna Dominick	10/11	12 yrs.
Jeffrey & Katie Sowers	10/11	6 yrs.
Brian & Katelyn Kupp	10/12	1 yr.
Jerry & Suzanne Kupp	10/13	36 yrs.
Cheryl Overly & Ann Myers	10/15	4 yrs.
Todd & Elizabeth Mosteller	10/16	16 yrs.
Al & Jeanette Forster	10/18	23 yrs.
Larry & Lauri Barr	10/19	35 yrs.
Dave & Cassandra Johnson	10/22	26 yrs.
Andrew & Rachel Weiler	10/24	5 yrs.
David & Sue Childs	10/27	30 yrs.
Guy & Marianne Graefe	10/28	42 yrs.



### KITTY VARADY'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY AT ST. PAUL'S.....

Kitty Varady has been the organist and leader of the choir for 50 wonderful years. Before the pandemic we had begun planning for a big celebration. The big celebration will have to wait but we are planning to celebrate her at the 8:00 AM outside service on October 4<sup>th</sup>. The rain date for the service would be October 11<sup>th</sup>.

### ITCHING TO GET OUTSIDE IN THIS BEAUTIFUL FALL WEATHER?

St. Paul's LEAF committee's biannual "Adopt a Road" cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, October 10th at 9am. We will be cleaning up Monocacy Road of litter and debris. Please feel free to join us. Meet at Monocacy Elementary School.

### WE NEED YOUR KITCHEN SCRAPS!

St. Paul's LEAF committee's compost bin is running short on green material and our composting efforts are suffering! You can help by saving your kitchen scraps from fleshy fruits and veggies (tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, asparagus, potato skins, carrot skins, etc.) in a small counter container. Drop off your scraps in the church's compost bin at the back of the parking lot!!



# SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

## Growing Young in a Changing World: Virtual Summit



*Have you watched again and again as youth leave your church after they have affirmed their baptism?  
Or maybe you have youth who only attend youth group and are not part of the larger congregation?  
Does your congregation have a large age gap missing of people in their 20s and even 30s?*

If you see any of the above as problems that the church needs to address, **then this event is for you!** It is also for as many folks as you can bring along with you.

The Youth, Young Adult, and Family Ministry Team is thrilled to welcome everyone in our synod to a two-day Virtual Summit titled "Growing Young in a Changing World."

Dozens of youth leaders in our synod have already reaped some of the benefits from a book called *Growing Young*. On November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, one of the authors of that book, Jake Mulder from the Fuller Youth Institute, will be working with our synod specifically to help us be more welcoming and engaging to the youth

and young people in our midst. **ALL synod church staff, rostered ministers and members are welcomed and encouraged to attend.**

We will meet digitally in the morning and afternoon of Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> and the morning of Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, with an optional afternoon session that day.

It is strongly encouraged that you read *Growing Young* prior to attending. You can purchase the book at <https://shop.fulleryouthinstitute.org/products/growing-young>.

**Please note:** Throughout this event, you will spend time in break out groups with others from either your congregation or mission district as we develop action plans to carry our teachings forward. Therefore, it will be helpful if you know in advance if others from your congregation or a partnering congregation are attending.

Please email [sammy@nepssynod.org](mailto:sammy@nepssynod.org) with questions and register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/growing-young-in-a-changing-world-virtual-summit-tickets-117650278149>.





## Assembly 2020 - A New Way of Being Church Together

Friday evening, October 16 & Sunday afternoon, October 18  
Friday evening, October 23 & Saturday morning and afternoon, October 24

### Watch the Assembly Online

Registration for voting members closes on October 1. However, even you didn't register as a voting member, you can still watch all the proceedings, including the election of a new bishop. The entire assembly will be broadcast live and can be viewed by anyone with an internet connection. For "visitors" - those who simply wishes to watch the proceedings - unlike past years, there is no need to register.

The information you need to watch the Assembly will be posted on the synod website ([nepasynod.org](http://nepasynod.org)).



## ELCA "Stories of Faith in Action"

Stories are the foundation of our faith. They teach us how to serve God with humility. They remind us of our identity as God's beloved children. They bring us together and give us hope for the future. Given the challenges of 2020, we need stories of hope and unity more than ever before. That's where your 2020-2021 edition of "Stories of Faith in Action" comes in.

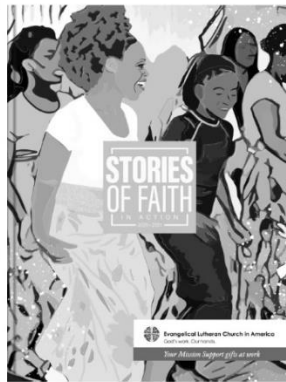
This annual publication illustrates how God is at work across the ELCA through your generosity. It highlights how a portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church – particularly the ways the ELCA nurtures vital congregations, raises up leaders and grows the global church. Most importantly, it's one way we say thank you for your faithful generosity to your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization – by showing your offering at work.

The latest edition is now available digitally and includes:

- A special message from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.
- Nine inspiring stories from around the country and world.
- Your 2019 financial report on Mission Support – the portion of your offering your congregation shares with your synod and your synod shares with the churchwide organization.
- A story-based devotional for use at Bible studies or committee meetings.

Visit the ELCA website at <https://www.elca.org/sofia> where you can either download a printable version or view it as a "Flip Book."

[This article is taken from an email authored by Victoria Flood, Director, ELCA Mission Support and Nick Kiger, Associate Director, ELCA Mission Support.]



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ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;">                     Council persons in charge of services—Jennifer Kochert, Glen Esenwein                 </div>				<b>1</b> 9 AM—Worship for high risk Holy Communion	<b>2</b> 10 AM—Bible Study	<b>3</b> 6 PM—Outdoor service. Holy Comm./Blessing of pets
<b>4</b> 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. Outdoor services. Blessing of animals @ 10:30 9:15—Sunday School	<b>5</b> 10 AM—Bible Study 7 PM—Christian Ed.	<b>6</b> Quilting 6:15—Child Dev.	<b>7</b> 10 AM—Bible Study 5:30—Girl Scouts	<b>8</b> 9 AM—Worship for high risk Holy Communion	<b>9</b> 10 AM—Bible Study	<b>10</b> 9 AM—Highway clean-up 6 PM—Holy Communion
<b>11</b> 8 & 10:30 —Holy Comm 9:15—Sunday School 9:30—Finance 12:15—CROP Walk (meet at St. Gabe's)	<b>12</b> 10 AM—Bible Study 7 PM—Pastoral Care	<b>13</b> Quilting	<b>14</b> 10 AM—Bible Study 7 PM--Council	<b>15</b> 9 AM—Worship for high risk Holy Communion 10 AM—Social Min. 7:30 PM—Crime Watch	<b>16</b> 10 AM—Bible Study	<b>17</b> 7:30 AM--Property 6 PM—Holy Communion
<b>18</b> 8 & 10:30 —Holy Comm 9:15—Sunday School	<b>19</b> 10 AM—Bible Study 7 PM—Bible Study	<b>20</b> Quilting	<b>21</b> 10 AM—Bible Study 5:30—Girl Scouts	<b>22</b> 9 AM—Worship for high risk Holy Communion	<b>23</b> 10 AM—Bible Study	<b>24</b> 6 PM—Holy Communion
<b>25</b> <i>Reformation</i> 8 & 10:30 —Holy Comm 9:15—Sunday School	<b>26</b> 10 AM—Bible Study	<b>27</b> Quilting	<b>28</b> 10 AM—Bible Study 7 PM—Worship & Music	<b>29</b> 9 AM—Worship for high risk Holy Communion	<b>30</b> 10 AM—Bible Study	<b>31</b> <i>Halloween</i> 6 PM—Holy Communion