



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

AUGUST, 2021

"Well, it's kind of fun to be doing stuff with purpose... I guess... actually... helping people as opposed to just doing things you might like." This is what volunteer Mark Smith said when asked what he liked about *Mission Trip Birdsboro and Beyond*. Mark never stopped sanding the stair treads he was working on as he answered my questions. The work Mark was doing on the stairs was just one of several jobs he worked on during MTBB.

Over the course of four days, July 21-24, one hundred-thirty volunteers from seven area churches undertook thirty-two projects to assist area families with home maintenance and repairs. These projects tend to be beyond the physical and/or financial capacity of the homeowners to undertake themselves. Mission Trip lends a hand to area homeowners who need a little help, connecting community time and talents with needs.

The theme of this year's project, "Build Each Other Up" was drawn from 1 Thessalonians 5:11 *"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing."* And building up each other, volunteers and homeowners, was what the week was all about. I caught up with three St Paul's Lutheran members working on a fence which was in desperate need of repair in Birdsboro. Susie Kresge served on the planning board for Mission Trip and recruited two of her friends in the congregation, Kelly Mooney and Lisa Mullen, to volunteer for MTBB. Susie said, "This is my first year doing it, I'm really enjoying it... getting to meet people from other churches in the area. I love working with these kids (who) are so anxious to learn new skills, and I'm learning

new skills and it's just a lot of fun!" There were quite a few youth volunteers like the Smith boys participating in the project again this year.

Lisa and Kelly agreed with Susie, the project gave them the satisfaction of making a difference in the community, meeting other people all while learning new skills working on various projects.

As Susie, Lisa and Kelly worked on the fence I sat down with the homeowner. This dad has a lot on his plate. His wife had just left for her physical therapy session as she tries to maintain her mobility while battling Multiple Sclerosis. His daughter is confined to a motorized wheelchair yet was quick with a smile during our conversations. His son struggles with severe physical challenges and, like a typical adolescent boy, was reluctant to leave his video game to join our conversation. Despite all these challenges dad talked about the blessings God gives and how great it is to experience the sense of community fostered during Mission Trip.

One such blessing for me was to see this dad, daughter and son again at the celebration luncheon on Sunday afternoon, enjoying great food and fellowship and lifting up to God all that was accomplished during Mission Trip. The celebration luncheon is an opportunity at the end of MTBB each year for volunteers and homeowners to come together to share a meal and give thanks to God for all the blessings received from God over the course of the week.

Henry Smith summed up the experience for me on Friday as he pulled up old, rotten boards which were once a porch. He was preparing for the new porch that he would help install. Henry said, "I like helping out the community, it gives me something to do in the summer that makes me feel useful." This was Henry and Mark Smith's second year volunteering for MTBB. Henry went on to say, "I would highly recommend that everybody at St Paul's comes and does Mission Trip next year!"

--Pastor Frey

(St Paul's Lutheran Douglassville participated in Mission Trip Birdsboro with a \$2000 financial gift and six volunteers.)

FROM THE PARISH RECORDS.....

Baptisms: July 11—**Raegan Elizabeth Ruotolo**, daughter of Ryan & Nicole (Cerminaro) Ruotolo

July 18 – **Jaxon Robert Day**, son of Michael & Kendra (Johnson) Day

Wedding: July 31 – **David D’Achille & Meghan Stack**

Thoughts on What We’ve Learned.....by Joy Gerhart



At a training session for Camp Noah staff members, our “get-to know-you” question was “what could you say was positive for you about your experience through the pandemic?” This year’s Camp Noah will strive to give children resiliency and preparedness skills for disasters including what they experienced with the pandemic. We will be teaching communication skills, problem-solving and analysis skills, social and emotional skills, self-confidence, creativity and self-expression. (And that’s just in crafts!) We will also have skits and puppet shows (with a message), will be celebrating Noah’s 600 and “somethingth” birthday, and will play all sorts of games in the afternoon. A goal is to listen to the feelings and hurt and help to give positive strategies and self-confidence in facing the future.

Back to the staff meeting. I said that one positive thing for me during the past 16 months is that I didn’t have to drive home in the dark from evening meetings because they were all on Zoom. I’m sure I’m not the only one whose night vision is waning. Another person said they had come up with some new and exciting recipes for meals. Another said they were able to read more books than usual. Another said they saved a lot of money on gas. As horrible as it has been, I hope that there were some positive things that occurred and that you’ve learned some new and important things.

one small
positive thought
can change your
whole day

I’ve learned how important it is for people to stay connected. Those of us with computers have found their value (when they work!) in helping

communicate with each other. I’ve learned how talented and dedicated members of our congregation are! And I’ve gotten to know some people much better. I am so grateful to God that scientists were capable of creating many vaccines to combat the covid-19 virus and so grateful that I was able to get it.

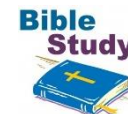
It may sound like I think we are out of the grip of the pandemic entirely, but we know that it is clearly not over. Every day is still a new challenge. The phrase from *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* comes to mind: “Constant Vigilance!” Even more than that, I do hope that we are coming out of this experience with a closer relationship with God, a greater sense of compassion for others, a greater sense of the need of others, and a greater desire to give to others. That’s what I hope we’ve learned.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES.....

This is intended to entice you to attend one of our Bible studies during the week. Monday and Friday studies are currently online on Zoom at 10:00 am, and our Wednesday Bible study on the Gospel of John at 9:30 am is in person in the Fellowship Hall, although some DO attend this on line.

Below are the passages that will be studied. On Mondays we study the Old Testament lesson for the upcoming Sunday.

Everyone is welcome to attend. You are not required to read aloud, speak up or take any tests! You may enjoy the fellowship and hopefully knowledge and inspiration it provides.



Sunday, August 1—2 Samuel 11:26-12:13 (to be studied on July 26)
Sunday, August 8—2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 (no Bible Study August 2)
Sunday, August 15—Isaiah 61:7-11 (to be studied on August 9)
Sunday, August 22—1 Kings 8: [1, 6, 10-11], 22-30, 41-43 (no Bible study 8/16)
Sunday, August 29—Song of Solomon 1:8-13 (to be studied August 23)

The link for Monday Bible Studies is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87300892165?pwd=REVXbjJRQmdDSWNW L1FCMk9SSUR4Zz09#success>

Meeting ID: 873 0089 2165

Passcode: 067059

Below are the passages that will be studied on Fridays:

Sunday, August 1—John 6:24-35 (to be studied on July 30)

Feeding of the 5000

Sunday, August 8—John 6:35, 41-51(to be studied August 6)

Feeding of the 5000

Sunday, August 15—Luke 1:46-55 (to be studied August 13)

“The Magnificat” by Mary, mother of Jesus

Sunday, August 22—John 6:56-69 (to be studied August 20*)

Sunday, August 29—Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 (to be studied 8/27)

The link for Friday Bible Studies:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/219384065?pwd=RWRjSStvcmx5ZlJ3TGVMEM 20rNTIOZz09#success>

Meeting ID: 219 384 065

Passcode: st.pauls

* means there will be a different link on August 20

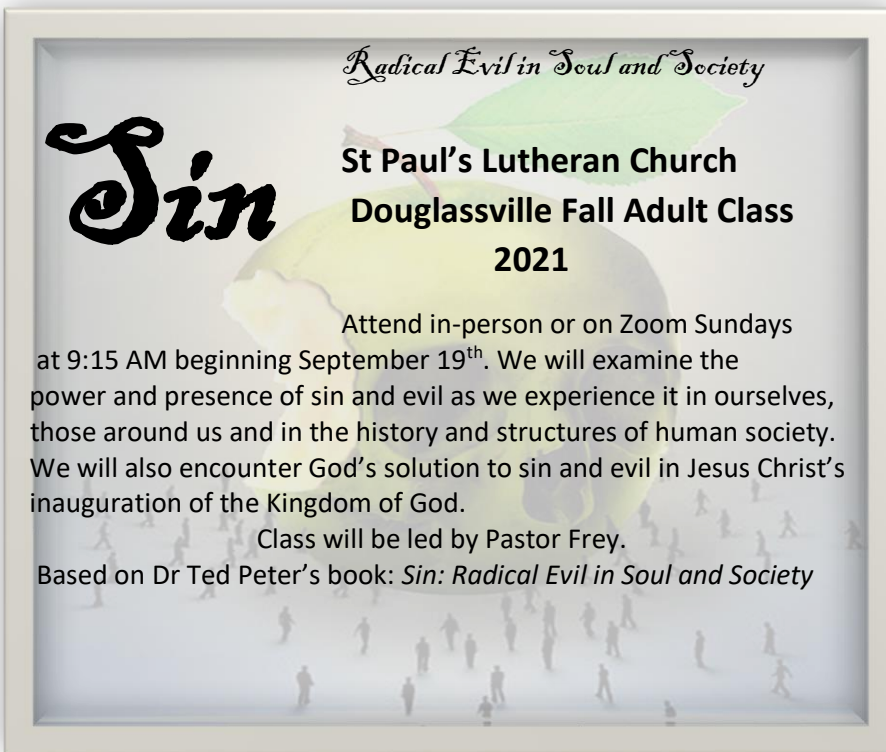
SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Sunday School classes will resume on Sunday, September 19 at 9:15 am. We plan to be in-person and have the same classes as in the past: Age 2-3, Age 4-K, Grade 1-2, Grade 3-4, and Grade 5-6. Confirmation classes will be grouping grades 7-9 and “separating” grade 10. An Adult class will be led by Pastor Frey as well. Almost all of our Sunday School teachers are returning to teach, and we even have a couple new teachers and helpers! Come join us on September 19!


SAVE THE DATE

RALLY DAY—SUNDAY, SEPT. 12

Our annual Rally Day (aka Kick off of Sunday School) will be held on Sunday, September 12 at 9:15 am in-person with an Olympic Theme. We hope to play games and hold activities outside. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!



Radical Evil in Soul and Society

Sin

**St Paul's Lutheran Church
Douglassville Fall Adult Class
2021**

Attend in-person or on Zoom Sundays at 9:15 AM beginning September 19th. We will examine the power and presence of sin and evil as we experience it in ourselves, those around us and in the history and structures of human society. We will also encounter God's solution to sin and evil in Jesus Christ's inauguration of the Kingdom of God.

Class will be led by Pastor Frey.
Based on Dr Ted Peter's book: *Sin: Radical Evil in Soul and Society*

CAMP NOAH

Joy will be helping with crafts at the Oley Cluster sponsored Camp Noah being held at the Oley Fairgrounds Aug 2-6. We hope to reach 50 elementary-aged children at the day camp.



OLEY FAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

After taking a year off due to the pandemic, the Oley Fair will be held this year on September 16, 17 & 18. The fair is in need of volunteers to help serve food.

Our church is scheduled to serve on Friday, September 17, with shifts from 9:00 A.M.—1:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M.—4:00 P.M.

If you are interested in volunteering, please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex or call the church office by September 1. Parking passes are available. The more volunteers we have, the more money our church receives from the Fair Association.

THE SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE IS COLLECTING THE FOLLOWING SUPPLIES MOST NEEDED BY STUDENTS AT THE DANIEL BOONE MIDDLE SCHOOL—

School Supplies:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Backpacks | Colored Markers |
| Binders - 1, 1 ½ & 2 inch | Highlighters |
| Tab Dividers | Notebook Paper |
| Notebook Paper | Pocket folders with 3 hole tabs |
| Blue and Black Pens | Stylus Pen for iPads |
| #2 Pencils | AAA Batteries (used for calculators) |
| Colored Pencils | |



Hygiene Items:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Deodorant | Brush/Comb |
| Shampoo/Conditioner (travel size) | |

Sensory Items:

(some of these items can be found at the Dollar Store)

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Fidget Spinners | Stress Balls |
| Silly Putty | Push Pop Bubble Fidget Toy |
| Small Adult Coloring Books | |

Please bring all school donations to the church on or before August 15

PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING THIS MONTH.....



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. Please include in your prayers this month: Richard Saylor, Kristin Saylor, Mya Saylor, Ruby Saylor, Chase 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, call the church office. Please pray for those with special concerns: Brian, Scott Coyle, Heather, Glenn, Arlene Hildebeitel, Kasper, Sandy Klinger, Kim Koury, Troy Lambeth, Bill Lerch, Lisa Lerch, Cheryl Lucia, Wendy Magargal, Donna Meloy, Michelle Moriaty, Gene Schaeffer, Nick Scullilli, Marian Zaffary, family & friends of Herman Rose, Barbara Stag, and all others listed below or those we name in our hearts: Dave Bechtel, Makayla Becker, Avery Boorse, Michael Burd, Jake Campbell, Darrell, Barbara DePrefontaine, Ethan, Ron Glaser, Jevin Heller, Connie Hunter, Terry Johnson, Joanne Marnell, Ron Mutter, Richard Randolph, Henry Rhoads, Lauren Ridge, Audrey Serrian, John Shaner, Vernet Spence-Brown, Jason Stalneckner, Karen Strain, Craig Williams, Jane Williams; Sandi Zelinski, homebound -- Charles Brown, Fern Brown, Peggy Burns, Jennie Clouser, Carol DeLong, Betty High, Arlene Hildebeitel, Ellen Sheeler, Dale Szajek.

(If you've added someone to the list, please help us keep it up to date)

AMITY FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE WILL BEGIN MEETING IN AUGUST...

Amity Friendship Circle is pleased to announce that meetings are beginning again on Thursday August 5, 2021, 12:00 Noon, with a covered dish lunch. Everyone please bring a food item for all of us to share.

Amity Friendship Circle is open to anyone in the community who is 50 years of age or older. We start our meetings with lunch and then have a speaker or some entertainment. On Aug. 5, Ryan Conroy will present a program about the underground railroad beginning at 1:30 P.M. After a long year of confinement, join us for good food and fellowship!

The Friendship Circle also invites anyone to join us on a bus trip to Penn's Peak Thursday October 14 for a delicious lunch and entertainment by "Hank Williams" impersonator David Church. Tickets are \$75 payable to Amity Friendship Circle and given to Jan Schell at church, or sent to 114 Wessex Court, Reading, PA, 19606. Call her at 610-779-7409 to make a reservation or for more information. Deadline is September 26, 2021.

Happy
Birthday

CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE CELEBRATING A WEDDING ANNIVERSARY IN AUGUST.....

John & Elizabeth Dollhopf	8/1	23 yrs.
Bruce & Pam Cope	8/4	31 yrs.
David & Vicki Hiser	8/6	38 yrs.
John & Kay Bonslaver	8/7	56 yrs.
Charles & Susan Fix	8/9	24 yrs.
Michael & Wendy Hasara	8/12	15 yrs.
Bruce & Janet Musselman	8/12	43 yrs.
Bill & Angie Kutz	8/16	35 yrs.
Paul & Laurie Muschick	8/17	25 yrs.
Matthew & Katrina Fusco	8/18	9 yrs.
David & Jan Bause	8/19	60 yrs.
Brian & Amy Hicks	8/19	26 yrs.
Jeff & Sheila Angstadt	8/20	33 yrs.
Ed & Sandra Berger	8/20	27 yrs.
Greg & Susie Kresge	8/20	27 yrs.
Rick & Nancy Centrella	8/21	45 yrs.
Wayne & Lynn Grace	8/24	47 yrs.
Herb & Darlene Schoenly	8/26	26 yrs.
Tom & Judy Morrow	8/27	51 yrs.
Jason & Apryll Ware	8/30	14 yrs.



8/1	Lynn Gibson Dana Martinsen Adrienne Sheeler	8/14	Rebecca Alford Denise Chroscinski Jeffrey Schaeffer
8/2	John Heisey Susie Kresge Eric Shank Payton Yoder	8/15	Alexandra Espinosa Ellen Sheeler
8/3	Kathryn Berger Kathy Jablonski Rose Potts	8/16	Kayla Heisey Hallie Levensgood
8/4	Rosalynnda Crichton Madalynne Forster	8/17	Samuel Haring Madelyn Hicks
8/5	Callie Kupp Jansen Loscig Zachary Secord	8/18	Rylan Brown
8/6	Ronald Donachie Ann Mengel	8/19	Kevin Forster Aeson Poux
8/7	David Hackett Callan Kriebel Pat Levensgood	8/20	Jennifer Knabb
8/8	James Breen Myla Eisenhard Ariana Haraske Aubrey Ridge Erna Vroman	8/22	Valerie Day Grant Moser Mark Smith
8/9	Brian Miller	8/23	Tim Schell
8/10	Gryffin Cappellano Mia DeNardo McKenna Detwiler Andrew Kresge Sophia Lott	8/24	Christopher Venn
8/12	Joseph Price Kim Sarro	8/25	Allie Dougherty Donna Meloy
		8/26	Tyler Bennis Sandi Levensgood
		8/27	Liam Conway Mary Levensgood Melissa Woodruff
		8/28	Connor Reed Henry Rhoads
		8/29	Olivia Hendricks Rob Levensgood Jennifer Moyer Chase Oesterling
		8/31	Bonnie Steever Scott Potts

SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

It's Finally Here! MinLab 2021

We are a church in three expression. The ELCA is made up of congregations, synods, and the churchwide/national expression. This gives us unique resources we wouldn't be able to access if we were simply unaffiliated Lutheran congregations.

Before COVID-19 wreaked havoc on "normal" we gathered yearly, in person for our synod assembly. At synod assembly, we conducted the business of our church, see familiar or new faces from all over our territory, and share with one another our ministries. We set up poster boards that allowed churches and organizations to share what they're doing, to inspire others to act, and to serve as a witness to the gospel, the good news of God in Christ.

Last year and this year have been different... a divergence from what is "normal"... a step away from our comfort zones. One thing was clear, we longed to gather together in



Bishop's Message August 2021: Bread for This Journey By Bishop Christopher deForest

What a difference a year makes. This year, we are journeying through the Gospel of Mark in our lectionary cycle. Mark is shorter than the other Gospels, so the lectionary adds bits from other Gospels, especially John. So this late summer, in many of our churches, we get these 5 weeks in a row (from July 25-August 22) from John chapter 6. This chapter tells a single interconnected story about Jesus showing and telling us what he means when he says: "I am the Bread of Life."

Pastors often get to this stretch every three years, and ask: "How do I preach on the same thing for 5 weeks?" Perhaps they turn to the other texts, or forego using the lectionary entirely for this period. Those are all fine choices. However, this time around, this summer, things are so different. The vaccines have brought us to safer places. And for many of us, the necessity of suspending Holy Communion for a time, or

person. MinLab seeks to fulfill that desire and to allow God's people to share their witness and ministry with one another.

At this outdoor ministry laboratory, we are inviting congregations and organizations from across our Synod (and beyond!) to show and share how they have been "growing young and vital" - even in the midst of the pandemic. **How has your church been able to: heal the hurt, engage the stranger, and love the land?** Learn new ideas to take home and try. Show and tell others about the "vital signs" you've seen "growing" in your midst through God's grace, love and care in your community.

Cafe Esperanza will be showcasing their Pay-what-you-can ministry with light breakfast items, coffee, and other refreshments. **Bear Creek Camp** counselors and staff will be in attendance to share their stories of God's work in the life of young people through outdoor ministry. The YoYoFa team will be working and to showcase ministries that exemplify the six characteristics of **Growing Young**. And so much more!!!

Join us on August 14, 10am-3pm at the Lutheran Center (2354 Grove Rd.) Register on the synod website at <http://nepasynod.org/minlab21/> which also have a plethora of information for you to engage and share with your community.

at least changing our practices around the sacrament, have perhaps made us appreciate the gift of Lord's Supper all the more.

In the midst of this story about bread, in John's chapter 6 we also get the story of the storm at sea, and Jesus walking on the water. We also hear John's version of the feeding of the 5000. In both cases, it is **Jesus coming to us**: finding us in the storm, feeding us in our fear, and leading us to a new shore.

Once again - do we not encounter these stories with different eyes and ears, different hearts and minds, here in late summer of 2021? Our feelings are so mixed: lament, grief, need, concern - yet also relief, thankfulness, joy, even hope? And do we not have increased capacity, to see and understand the struggles of others around us? Have we not developed more compassion and stamina to deal with the higher, deeper, wider and longer-term challenges facing our world, our nation, our synod?

What makes me most grateful, most motivated, and most hopeful about what we learned through the pandemic, and where it has placed us today - is that we are still together. We have stayed together. And we can now begin to more safely gather together and work together, using new tools (like technology) with new strengths, new perspectives, and new perseverance.

This late summer, into this fall, there will be several gatherings happening, to work together on big problems. Our whole synod, for MinLab on August 14; our Ministry Teams on August 22; our retired pastors and deacons with me throughout September; and our clergy in November for Bishop's Conference - to name just a few. Our challenges are many; time is always tight; there's always a lot to take care of. But in our homes, our workplaces, our congregations and schools - God is here. The Spirit is in us and with us. And Christ meets us and goes out ahead of us - giving us all that we need: safe harbor; eternal life; and his body and blood, his very life - true Bread from Heaven and bread for this particular journey. Holy God, lead us and let us travel well and traverse far, together! Amen!

August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm	2	3 Quilting 6:15--CDC	4 9:30 AM—Bible Study (in-person) 6 PM—T3	5 Noon—Amity Fr. Circle	6 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	7 6 PM—Holy Comm
-----Camp Noah at Oley Fairgrounds-----						
8 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm 9:30--Finance	9 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom) 7 PM—Pastoral Care	10 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS	11 9:30 AM—Bible Study (in-person) 7 PM--Council	12	13 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	14 6 PM—Holy Comm
15 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm	16	17 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS	18	19 10 AM—Social Min 7 PM—Technology 7:30—Crime Watch	20 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	21 7:30 AM--Property 6 PM—Holy Comm
22 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm	23 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom) 7 PM – Christian Ed.	24 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS	25 9:30 AM—Bible Study (in-person) 7 PM—Worship & Music	26	27 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	28 6 PM—Holy Comm
29 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm	30 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	31 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS				