

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



**OCTOBER, 2021**

Psalm 133

<sup>1</sup> *How very good and pleasant it is  
when kindred live together in unity!*

<sup>2</sup> *It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down upon the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down over the collar of his robes.*

<sup>3</sup> *It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion.  
For there the LORD ordained his blessing,  
life for evermore.*

What a wonderful feeling it is when we see someone we haven't seen for a long time who we are used to seeing regularly! Rally Day was such an event for me, and I really enjoyed reconnecting to some of our families who have been separated from us by 18 months of pandemic.

I suppose I should be used to the separations by now, but I have to admit I am not and I do not intend to become used to it. I am glad to have Zoom and online streaming capacity during a time when the pandemic is not yet over, and there is still uncertainty about the virus. But these will not replace in-person meetings, worship, and fellowship in my understanding and experience of the root and source of community in Christ.

I want to draw your attention to two opportunities for in-person/outside worship and service coming up in October.

**First, the Oley Cluster of Lutheran Churches**, 9 Lutheran churches surrounding Oley, will be gathering for an outside worship service at Friedens Lutheran Church (RT 73) in Oley on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 AM which will be presided over by our new bishop Christopher deForest.

The impetus behind this joint worship service was a call from our own T3 committee this summer to other congregations to do something together in the fall, so I am pretty invested in this. You should bring your own chair and a lunch if you want to stick around to eat lunch together after the service.



We will still have our Saturday night and 8:00 AM Sunday services but it is my sincere hope that our congregants who are able will choose this community service instead.

**The second event is the CROP Walk October 17<sup>th</sup>.** This year the walk is a week later than the normal second Sunday in October, but this change is to avoid conflicting with Amity Township's Fall Festival. The 6k walk through Birdsboro begins at St Mark's Lutheran Church with registration at 1:30 PM. You can come anytime between 12:00 PM and 1:30 PM to share a picnic lunch, hot dogs provided and items to share brought by those who like to share such things. Here is the website for the walk where participants can sign up and begin soliciting funds.

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/event/birdsboropa>



I have been a big advocate for the CROP Walk for years perhaps because I have been the organizer since 2007. But this year, I see this as another vitally important opportunity to break out of our isolation in a pretty safe atmosphere to do some good together for Christ. We really need this, I do anyway!

As we rapidly move toward the winter months, I sincerely hope these October events will be opportunities to reengage as a community. The body of Christ can only virtually endure for so long before it begins to diminish and disappear into that same ether. May God grant us opportunities to renew our association and affirm the bond of our community.

--Pastor Frey

There will be **NO 10:30AM worship service at St. Paul's on October 3rd** so



we may participate in the Oley Cluster of Lutheran Churches joint worship service with Bishop deForest. The 8:00 AM service (10/3) and Saturday at 6:00 PM service (10/2) will be held as scheduled. The Oley Cluster joint service details are below.

An Oley Cluster Worship Service will be celebrated on October 3rd (*Worldwide Communion Sunday*) at 10:30 AM at Friedens Lutheran Church (Rt 73) in Oley. The service is scheduled to take place outside under a tent and will feature the new Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Bishop Christopher deForest as the preacher. Participants are to bring their own chairs and are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch with beverages if you wish to stick around for a fellowship picnic lunch after the service. This is a great opportunity to reconnect, celebrate our shared ministry and meet our new Synodical Bishop. In case of severe weather a decision on worship will be made October 2nd. If the service needs to be canceled a recorded version of the service will be posted.

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

**Memorial Service** – 9/11 – Art Yerger

**Baptism:** -- 9/26 – Aidan Anthony Gil

New Members: Robert & Jane Eagle  
Charles Eagle  
Gene & Shirley Schaeffer

Contributions to the **Memorial Fund** in memory of **Carl Pratt** given by:

Rita Graczyk                      Kathleen Fiorentino  
John & Karen Scholl            Isabell McHugh  
Faculty, staff, administrators and students at Albright College  
Dr. Jacqueline Fetrow & Mr. Brian Kell

Contribution to the **Memorial Fund** in memory of **Lucas Pusch** given by: Manning Materials Corp.

Contribution to the **Agape Fund** in memory of **Rev. George & Ann Deisher** given by Alice Sprague.

--YTD Giving thru August 2021--				
	<u>Jan.-Aug. 2020</u>	<u>Jan-Aug. 2021</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>% chg.</u>
Offerings	\$ 239,612	\$ 233,704	-5,908	-2.47
Vision 2020 Contr.	39,976	36,005	-3,971	-9.93
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 279,588</b>	<b>\$ 269,709</b>	<b>-9,879</b>	<b>-3.53</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 ON THE PRESENT**

**by JOY GERHART**

I have been doing a lot of reminiscing recently. My 40<sup>th</sup> seminary class reunion was on Sept. 19. Some of you may know that Dave Rowe, Mary's husband, was our class president, and he arranged a reunion for us on zoom. It's amazing how much happens in 40 years! Many of my fellow seminary friends received pastoral calls in this synod, so I have seen them often, annually at synod assemblies or at other synod-wide events. But one friend has been living in Washington DC, and we hadn't seen each other since our 10<sup>th</sup> seminary reunion. We had the opportunity to visit in early September. We did a lot of reminiscing as well as catching up on each other's lives.

Unfortunately, I was so caught up in reminiscing that I completely forgot my daughter-in-law's birthday. Well, I was also rather busy with the start-up of Sunday school, and other things. I guess it's a lesson for me to keep a balance on the past, present and future.

In Pastor Frey's Bible Study on the Gospel of John, we studied John's understanding of eternal life, which is not something that happens in the future, but NOW when we believe in Jesus. We don't have to look to the end of life to be connected to God because we are connected NOW. We can experience the quality of life abundant that God wants for us NOW. (Check out John 3:16, 4:14, 10:10 or all of John!)

You've probably heard the trite statement that we should enjoy the present because it is a gift (double entendre on "present"). Well, maybe it's not so trite. Maybe we should really focus on each moment. How am I relating to God today? What am I thankful for today? What might God want me to do today? Am I even paying attention to God today? Maybe our contemplating the present should include contemplating BEING PRESENT—aware, focused, ears and eyes open--and being open to God's PRESENCE.

I've never been really good at planning far ahead, but also not so great at focusing on the present. Even taking pictures and freezing moments pulls me away from fully experiencing the present. I read a reflection by Richard Rohr. He or the person he quotes (Eckhart Tolle who wrote *The Power of Now*) makes a distinction between life and our life situation—our life situation is psychological time: past and future—"mind stuff." Our present life situation is the result of things that happened in the past, but it is still our present situation and possibly being stuck in it that can make us unhappy. Our life is NOW, being present in the moment. It's only in the NOW that we can participate in the fullness of life.



Maybe I've given you something to think about. I'm still mulling it over myself. But I do believe it's true.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS!!

### Weekday Adult Bible Studies

Our weekday adult Bible studies are still going strong. We offer 3 opportunities: On line Old Testament study with Joy on Mondays at 10:00 am, Study of John's Gospel with Pastor Frey at 9:30 am in person on Wednesdays, and online gospel study with Pastor Frey on Fridays at 10:00 am. These are wonderful learning opportunities and we encourage you to check them out. (The Monday and Friday classes cover the lessons to be read in church on the upcoming Sunday The Wednesday class is a thorough study of the Gospel of John from chapter one to twenty-one.) The Monday zoom link is: Meeting ID: 873 0089 2165 with passcode 067059 and the Friday link is: 219 384 065 with passcode st.pauls.



### Bible Introduction and Presentation

The pandemic prevented us from having a Bible Introduction class last year, so we were able to invite 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders to our special workshop this year on September 19. Those attending Sept. 19 and receiving Bibles on Sept. 26 were Chloe Basile, Jake Beil, Greyson Boardman, Stella Boyd, Nathaniel Crichton, Brynn and Leah Detwiler, Bryleigh Dietrich, Briella Eisenhard, Ameila Fretz, Mackenzie Gougler, Lucas Gross, Emily Poole, Vivienne Poux, Julia Price, Ruby Saylor, Nathan Vernon, and Avery Yetter. We have some new 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders joining us who had such a good time at VBS that they decided to come here for Sunday school!

Please keep these young people in your prayers as they enjoy their new Bibles and embark on this path of growing closer to God by reading God's word in their own Bible.

### Rally Day thank yous:

Thanks to all who made our Rally Day Olympics a great success. The weather was perfect and we had many excited children. It was really fun to see the activity of our Sunday school children on the church grounds again! Many thanks to all our adults who prepared and led the

activities, and a special thank you to all the youth who jumped right in helping, adding to the fun. Pictures are on display in the narthex.

Thanks to Sigi for getting some fantastic pictures!!!

### CROP WALK OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup> IN BIRDSBORO

As we are battered by bad news like that coming out of Afghanistan it is easy to feel powerless to do anything to help. But there is something you can do which directly benefits Afghan families in peril.



You can make a direct and substantial difference in the crisis by participating in the CROP Walk. Church World Service, whose cross-denomination ministries include, the CROP Walk, Blanket Sunday, health kits, etc. is a significant provider of refugee services around the world. In fact, 56% of their total budget is spent on helping displaced persons. Last year that amounted to over \$45 million dollars. Church World Service and other humanitarian organizations are already working with refugees from Afghanistan and elsewhere to help during this time of crisis. And they are drawing on resources such as blankets and health kits already in their inventory to do so. But of course, the scale of this need will demand much more.

Our community ***CROP Walk is taking place in Birdsboro on October 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM beginning at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.*** Money raised from our walk will directly benefit refugees presently fleeing the Taliban in Afghanistan and other humanitarian crises in our own country and around the world. Sign up and begin soliciting funds at.

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/event/birdsboropa>

Remember also that 25% of all money raised is returned to our local community and forms the principal resource for food and emergency aid to families through *Hopewell Love*.

We do not need to be helpless observers of the struggles of our brothers and sisters around the world. By participating in or donating to the CROP Walk we can make a real, substantive difference.

### ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY – NOV. 7.....

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, 2020) 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.

### 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: Torie Shaffer, Daulton Shaffer, Aspyne Shaffer, Claude Shaner, Eric Shank, Adrienne Sheeler, Calvin Sheeler, Ellen Sheeler, Michael Shingle, Dori Shingle, Nathan Shingle, Matt Sim, Justine Sim, Calvin Sim. If you have anyone to add to the prayer list, call the church office. Please pray for those with special concerns: Christina, Scott Coyle, Angel & Israel Gamble, Glenn, Sara Hartline, Arlene Hildebeitel, Kasper, Ramona Kennedy, Sandy Klinger, Kim Koury, Ruth Krouse, Troy Lambeth, Irene Lecki, Priscilla Leh, Bill Lerch, Lisa Lerch, Cheryl Lucia, Wendy Magargal, Michelle Moriaty, Craig Nichols, Donald Noll, Gloria Rhoads, Gene Schaeffer, Nick Sculilli, Anne Weiser, family & friends of Anne Paul, Salvatore Boccella, IV, Art Yerger, Carl Pratt, and all others listed below or those we name in our hearts: 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 Stalneck, 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.



**HELP SUPPORT THE SOCIAL MINISTRY ANGEL GIVING TREE.....**

**Advent Angel Giving Tree.** In early October you will notice our tree in the Narthex. We are collecting gifts again this year to help children of incarcerated individuals celebrate the season! Please consider 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 and after each Service. We ask that all gifts be placed under the tree by Sunday, November 7, 2021.



**OR, should you be 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 wish to participate. One of our Social Ministry members will then call you to review the gifts available for purchase. We will arrange pickup from your front door at a convenient date or you can drop the gift off to St. Paul's before Sunday, November 7, 2021. Thank You Very Much!!



**FESTIVAL OF HARVEST—Sunday, October 10.....**

On Sunday, October 10, we will celebrate the Festival of Harvest, thanking God for not only a bountiful harvest but for the many gifts provided on a daily basis.

We are planning to decorate the sanctuary with chrysanthemum plants. Use the enclosed form if you would like to place an order. The plants may be taken with you following the 10:30 service. **Deadline to order is Sunday, Oct. 3.**

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I/We would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ chrysanthemum plants @ \$5.00 each.

Given to the Glory of God in memory

of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**SOCK COLLECTION.....**



Socks (children & adults) new pairs in packages, any kind or color are being collected for The Clothing Closet at Birdsboro Nazarene Church.

Place your donations in the container provided in the narthex. This is a project of Hopewell Love and area churches.

**Happy Birthday**

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



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE CELEBRATING A WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.....**

Brandon & Denise Price	10/2	11 yrs.
Brian & Rebecca Miller	10/4	24 yrs.
Carl & Lois Wenzel	10/5	36 yrs.
Tim & Rebecca Oister	10/9	12 yrs.
Evan & Jenna Dominick	10/11	13 yrs.
Jeffrey & Katie Sowers	10/11	7 yrs.
Brian & Katelyn Kupp	10/12	2 yrs.
Gerald & Suzanne Kupp	10/13	37 yrs.
Cheryl Overly & Ann Myers	10/15	5 yrs.
Todd & Elizabeth Mosteller	10/16	17 yrs.
Al & Jeanette Forster	10/18	24 yrs.
Larry & Lauri Barr	10/19	36 yrs.
David & Cassandra Johnson	10/22	27 yrs.
Andrew & Rachel Weiler	10/24	6 yrs.
David & Sue Childs	10/27	31 yrs.
Guy & Marianne Graefe	10/28	43 yrs.



**ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFTS.....**



Give something unexpected this Christmas! In Christ, we receive the gift of God’s love. Let us share God’s love with others. ELCA Good Gifts are a fun, meaningful way to honor friends and family with Christmas gifts that go on to make a difference in the world.

Designating a contribution to help provide livestock and other resources for famers in areas of the world struggling with poverty could mean the difference between life and death. Choose a gift (chick, pig, goat, etc.), receive a delightful Christmas card to send to the one you gave the gift in honor of, feel good that you gave *the person who has everything* something that helped a community with almost nothing! Available from the LEAF Committee beginning October 10 through the 31<sup>st</sup> at St Paul’s or online at anytime on ELCA Good Gifts Catalogue.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!**  
**Sunday, November 21, 2021**  
 9:15 A.M.

The budget for 2022 will be presented for approval and other important business will be conducted. Plan to attend either in person or on Zoom.

We will need to know if you will be attending the online Zoom meeting so we can be sure a quorum is present. More details will follow.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

# October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	<b>2</b> 6 PM—Holy Comm
<b>3</b> 8 AM—Holy Comm 9:15—Sun. School 10:30—Service @ Friedens, Oley	<b>4</b> 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom) 7 PM—Christian Ed.	<b>5</b> Quilting 2 PM--TOPS 6:15--CDC	<b>6</b> 9:30 AM—Bible Study (in-person)	<b>7</b> 6 PM—T3	<b>8</b> 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	<b>9</b> 6 PM—Holy Comm
<b>10</b> <i>Festival of Harvest</i> 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm 9:15—Sun. School 9:30--Finance	<b>11</b> 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom) 7 PM—Pastoral Care	<b>12</b> Quilting 2 PM--TOPS	<b>13</b> 9:30 AM—Bible Study (in-person) 7 PM--Council	<b>14</b> Amity Fr. Circle trip to Penn's Peak 7 PM—Prayer Shawl	<b>15</b> 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	<b>16</b> 7:30 AM--Property 6 PM—Holy Comm
<b>17</b> 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm 9:15—Sun. School 1 PM—Girl Scouts 1:30 PM—CROP	<b>18</b> 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	<b>19</b> Quilting 2 PM--TOPS	<b>20</b> 9:30 AM—Bible Study (in-person)	<b>21</b> 10 AM—Soc. Min. 6 PM--Technology 7:30—Crime Watch	<b>22</b> 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	<b>23</b> 6 PM—Holy Comm
<b>24</b> 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm 9:15—Sun. School	<b>25</b> 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	<b>26</b> Quilting 2 PM--TOPS	<b>27</b> 9:30 AM—Bible Study (in-person) 7 PM—Worship & Music	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 6 PM—Holy Comm
<b>31</b> <i>Reformation</i> 8 & 10:30—H.C. 9:15—Sun. School						