



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

SEPTEMBER, 2021

The circumstances surrounding the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan have been alarming no matter what your opinion has been concerning the war itself. Of first concern is the safety of the people involved. It is the US government's legal responsibility to remove US citizens out of danger, but it is our moral responsibility to help those Afghan citizens who have put themselves in harms way to assist us through this 20 year war to make their way to safety and become established in a new home.

Countries around the world are making space available for these refugees and, of course, some of these refugees will also resettle in the United States. Two organizations directly involved in resettling Afghan families are agencies St Paul's has a long history supporting: Church World Service (CROP Walk) and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee services.

Below are statements concerning each organization's response and planned involvement in the crisis in Afghanistan.

The following is a statement by Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, president and CEO of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service – a national refugee resettlement agency that advocates for and welcomes Afghan allies through the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program:

"We are grateful that there are assurances of relocation of Afghan allies alongside American civilians, though it is unfortunate this urgency has only been spurred months later by a dire security situation.

It is paramount that we now see a clear plan for relocation of allies from the administration before the security situation further deteriorates. We remain concerned that Afghan allies will be evacuated to Qatar, a country that is not a signatory to the refugee convention and does not assure freedom of expression or movement.

The easiest and most efficient way forward is to move allies to U.S. territory. The U.S. has already welcomed 1,200 allies and family members through Fort Lee, Virginia, and Guam remains a viable and historically reliable staging ground for processing.

Anything less than a full evacuation of all allies and their family members in danger would be an abdication of our moral responsibility."

For more information or to make a donation visit:

<https://www.lirs.org/us-deploys-troops-relocation-embassy-staff-allies-from-afghanistan>

And the statement From Church World Service

The Taliban have taken over Afghanistan. A UN document says that the Taliban is intensifying their search for people who worked with American and NATO troops. Afghan women are taking drastic steps to cover up any connection to the United States.

The U.S. government has promised to protect Afghan refugee families. In August, the State Department announced a Priority 2 designation for certain Afghan refugees and their families so that they could access the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. Additionally, Afghans who worked directly for the U.S. military are eligible for special immigrant visas to resettle in the United States.

The Biden administration has begun evacuating 2,500 people—allies and their families—to the U.S. Army Garrison in Fort Lee, Virginia. From there, families will quickly be processed and sent on to cities across the country to begin their new lives in safety.

Tens of thousands of Afghans remain in peril. More than 18,000 refugees who worked alongside the U.S. military and their families have

not been evacuated. Countless other Afghan refugees are also in desperate need of safety, including human rights defenders, NGO workers and people who will be persecuted under the Taliban.

CWS Response

CWS has a long history of working with Afghans and their families. Many have come through CWS offices on special immigrant visas, seeking protection and a better life.

This work is more important now than ever.

CWS resettlement offices and affiliates are welcoming these Afghan families as they arrive in their new communities, providing critical support for them as they arrive without housing, without immediate income, and without critical support services.

We are in urgent need of housing and secure facilities to host families. That's why we are requesting financial support as well as in-kind assistance to help secure housing for those who need it. We are looking for facilities that could be used as or converted to living quarters, either temporarily or long-term.

Donations can also be sent to Church World Service (P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515). Please designate your gift to Protect Our Afghan Allies.

To learn about sponsoring a family arriving in your community, email refugeewelcome@cwsglobal.org.

The epistle of James chapter 2, which is the second lesson for September 5, reads,

If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food,¹⁶ and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. (James 2:15-17) If your faith is moving you to want to respond to this situation here are two ways you can help directly.

1. Make a donation to LIRS on their website
2. Participate in the CROP Walk on October 17th in Birdsboro.

I am also exploring another support opportunity that may provide a more direct respond to this refuge crisis. I hope to have information on this to share with you soon.

Please remember the people of Afghanistan in your prayers and also pray for our ministry partners as they respond with short- and long-term assistance to these people in need.

--Pastor Frey

CROP WALK OCTOBER 17TH 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 17th 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.



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.

FROM THE PARISH RECORDS.....

Funeral: 8/14 – Lucas Pusch

Baptism: 8/29 -- Calvin Lewis Sim, son of Matthew & Justine (Snyder) Sim

--YTD Giving thru July 2021--				
	<u>Jan.-July 2020</u>	<u>Jan-July 2021</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>% chg.</u>
Offerings	\$ 209,851	\$ 203,438	-6,413	-3.06
Vision 2020 Contr.	35,948	31,975	-3,973	-11.05
Total Giving	\$ 245,799	\$ 235,413	10,386	-4.22

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 OLYMPICS:.....by Joy Gerhart

Did you watch the Olympics? Do you watch sports? I'm a big fan of gymnastics so I followed the whole drama of the women's gymnastics team and the difficulties faced by Simone Biles. I was also very appreciative that NBC did not air the gymnastics competitions extremely late into the evening which I seem to remember they did in the past.



Did you know we are planning on having an Olympics theme for our Rally Day, this year? It may seem a little untimely since the summer Olympics are over, but the winter Olympics are coming in 2022. Whether timely or not, the kids like sports and movement and it is a good chance for us to share some athletic themed Bible content with the children as a kick off to the new Sunday Church School year.

Maybe you are familiar with some of these passages:

1 Corinthians 9:25 -- Every athlete exercises self-control in all things.

Philippians 3:14 - I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:13 -- I can do all things in Him who strengthens me.

2 Timothy 2:5 -- An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

My mother would always end her letters to me, "Keep the faith." At her funeral, I made sure that we (actually I) read from 2 Timothy 4:7-8 -- "I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance, and I have kept the faith. And now there is waiting for me the prize of victory awarded for a righteous life, the prize which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that Day—and not only to me but all those who wait with love for him to appear."

Of course, we are not running a race. (Though some call our life a rat race.) Some may feel life is a marathon. I've heard people say this pandemic is a marathon, not a sprint. Though I'm not big on self-discipline, we do learn from athletes that discipline and training are vital for "success." So how do we view our Christian life? Are we running, riding, swimming? Are we running toward something? God? I prefer to think that God is running or walking with me. I'm not looking for a prize, even eternal life, I guess because the Gospel of John promises we can have eternal life now, in the present with God through Jesus. And do we feel training is important? Like reading the Bible? Or conversing with our running companion through prayer? Maybe this is food for thought. Have some Gatorade and think it over.

I worked on a scavenger hunt through the Bible which I realized is a bit too difficult and off-putting for young children. So, I'm sharing it with you. See if you can find the sports-related word in each Bible verse. I used the NRSV Bible which is the translation we use in worship and Bible study. (Not all Bibles use the same words.)

John 5:27	Zechariah 12:6 or John 18:3
Mark 2:11 or John 5:9	1 Kings 10:29
John 3:24 or Micah 5:11	Psalms 19:5
1 Samuel 20:20	Hebrews 12:1
Ezekiel 47:5 or Acts 27:43	Genesis 21:18 or Psalm 86:4
1 Corinthians 4:9	Isaiah 22:18
1 Corinthians 9:24	John 20:4 or Hebrews 12:1
1 Corinthians 9:26	

Choose from these words: Arena, arrows, athlete, ball, boat, box, course, horse, jump, lift up, mat, match, pool, prize, roll, run/running, spear (javelin), spectacle, swim, thrown, torch, tumble.

Have fun and join us on Rally Day if you can.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HAPPENINGS.....

Rally Day with an Olympic Twist September 12 at 9:15

Since we just enjoyed the Olympics this summer and will be seeing the winter Olympics in 2022, it seemed to make sense to celebrate our own Olympics with some games and a bit of Bible thrown in for fun. We will hold our Olympics outdoors, weather permitting, meeting at the basketball net on the far side of the parking lot (like last year) at 9:15 am on Sunday, September 12. There may be an Olympic torch and music! We will have relay races with groups of children, a pentathlon (a series of 5 competitions using swim noodles and frisbees), and a sports-related Bible scavenger hunt. Come and compete for a gold medal! Refreshments in individual packaging will be served at the end. Be sure to bring your SPARK Bible and come with your whole family. Friends are invited too!!!! (If necessary, we will move activities indoors rather than cancel the event. Masks will be needed indoors.)

Sunday Church School This Fall

It's time again for Sunday school to resume. We will begin our individual classes on September 19 at 9:15 am, and we are asking everyone to wear masks. Classes will meet in the same rooms that they did 2 years ago, and we will have signs to direct you to the proper rooms. The only exceptions are that 7th-9th grade confirmation will meet in the multipurpose room downstairs, and the Adult class will meet in the library. We hope you will feel comfortable enough to come back to join us for this time of learning and growing closer to God. Please call Joy Gerhart if you have any questions or email at jgerhart@stpaulsdouglassville.com.

Bible Introduction and Presentation for 3rd and 4th Graders



It is very important to enable parents to officially place the Bible in the hands of their children, fulfilling a promise made at baptism. Last year we were not able to hold our annual Bible Introduction workshop or our Bible Presentation during worship. This year we invite all families with 3rd and 4th graders and older youth who did not receive Bibles to join us on Sunday afternoon, **September 19**, for a lunch and workshop to learn more about the Bible. Lunch will start at approximately 11:30 after the 10:30 Sunday worship service and the workshop will continue until 1:30 pm. Then we will ask parents to take a Bible home, write in it and highlight meaningful passages, and bring the Bible back for presentation to their child in church on **September 26** at either service. Please contact Joy Gerhart if you are interested in attending.

First Communion

We are planning to have our First Communion study in person this year. The workshop will be held on **Saturday, November 20** and First Communion will be offered on **Sunday, November 21**. Normally children in grades 4 and up are invited to attend the workshop. There will be more information forthcoming.



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*

speakers, service projects, interactive displays and games in a huge space, an opportunity to learn and meet with others from our own synod one day as well as meeting youth from all over the country every day. Please contact Joy Gerhart if you are interested.



Did you enjoy celebrating Christmas in July? Well, Coffee hours will be held on the 3rd Sunday of the month, beginning September 19 with the theme of celebrating America and all of our wonderful workers! Join us between services, celebrating the red, white and blue.....then on October 17, join us for a Halloween theme, November 21, for a Thanksgiving theme, and December 19, for a Christmas theme! **We are asking that members bring a treat to share at coffee hour and dressing for the theme is encouraged!** Enjoy all of the celebrations while getting back to spending time with you church family!

YOUTH NEWS.....

Youth Gathering in Minnesota, MN

The ELCA is still planning to hold its postponed Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN, in 2022—July 24-28.

We already have 3 youth interested in attending but I am checking around to see if there are more who are interested. Youth need to be entering 9th grade in the fall of 2022 or older. The oldest can be 2022 graduates from high school. The theme is “boundless (with a small b): God Beyond Measure” and the theme is based on Ephesians 3:19—“I want you to know all about Christ’s love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is.” The youth who attended in 2018 in Houston had a great time. There are

THANKS FROM THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER.....



St. Paul's Child Development Center would like to express our gratitude to Craig and Luke Yambor for their generous gift of time and talent to our CDC.

Craig reconfigured the St. Paul's Website to make it more user friendly to prospective families looking for Child care in our area. Instead of searching for information about the CDC, families can just visit the church website and click on Child Development Center and be supplied with information that will hopefully help them decide to send their child to our Center. **Luke** created a colorful, informative and inviting video, which can be accessed through the website, of our Director Sherry Gardner walking through various rooms highlighting the numerous opportunities for learning available to our students.

We urge YOU to take a minute and visit our Center via the video as well. We have a lot going on in our wonderful Child Development Center.

CHOW-CHOW IS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.....

\$4.00 pint/\$8.00 quart



Mark your calendar! The next Blood Drive is on Monday, September 27, from 2—7:00 P.M. right here at St. Paul’s. Online registration is available at www.GIVEaPINT.org. Use sponsor code 2050 or contact Rhonda Maloney at 610-858-9236.



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. Parking passes are available. The more volunteers we have, the more money our church receives from the Fair Association. Thanks to those who have already signed up.

THERE ARE STILL A FEW SEATS AVAILABLE!!

Amity Friendship Circle bus trip to Penn’s Peak on Thursday, Oct. 14. 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.

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: Herbert Schoenly, Darlene Schoenly, Karen Schreier, John Schroeder, Fawn Schroeder, Gabriel Schulze, Harry Schweikert, Susan Schweikert, Rose Secord, Zachary Secord, Joshua Secord, John Serrian, Jeane Serrian, Emma Serrian.. If you have anyone to add to the prayer list, call the church office. Please pray for those with special concerns: Scott Coyle, Heather, Angel & Israel Gamble, Glenn, Mary Graefe, Sara Hartline, Arlene Hildebeitel, Kasper, Sandy Klinger, Kim Koury, Ruth Krouse, Troy Lambeth, Bill Lerch, Lisa Lerch, Cheryl Lucia, Wendy Magargal, Michelle Moriaty, Craig Nichols, Gloria Rhoads, Gene Schaeffer, Nick Scullilli, family & friends of Art Yerger, Carl Pratt, Sandy Arnold-Norris, Lisa Moore, Lucas Pusch, Dave Bechtel, Brian 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.

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

A WORD OF THANKS

The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank the congregation for their generous response to the school supply collection for the Daniel Boone Middle School. The supplies have been delivered and were gratefully accepted.



9/2	Carol DeLong Bradley Schittler Isabelle Yetter	9/18	Brittany Weidner Arlene Wolfgang
9/3	Donna Saylor Darlene Schoenly	9/19	Tina Hackett Cheryl Meade
9/4	Carol Gross Jane Kinder	9/20	Alexandra Chroscinski Herb Schoenly Charles Weiser
9/5	Katie Sarro	9/21	Hadlynn Berzins David Johnson Danielle Walt
9/8	Brooke Eidell Pat Roland Weston Zepp	9/22	Sherryl Kasprzewski Matthew Mueller Brandon Price
9/9	David Prizer Courtney Rhoads Claude Shaner	9/23	Kevin Frankenfield Audrey LeGrand Colin Mooney Eileen Swavely
9/10	Jessica Smith	9/24	Logan Day Judy Grabowicz Alexander Musetti Noah Tindall Benjamin West
9/11	Mason Betts Elizabeth Burns	9/25	Robyn Berger Keith Forster
9/12	Wendy Hasara Dori Shingle Joel Steever	9/26	Gerald Kupp Hunter Moyer
9/13	David Alexander Sandra Hart Bill Kutz Brandon Strain	9/27	Suzanne Kupp Denise Price
9/14	David Stauffer	9/28	Robin Rohrbach Keith Royer John Serrian
9/15	Kendall Freitag Todd Mosteller Cynthia Yetter	9/29	Bruce Cope Michele Fisher Zachary Waring
9/16	LuAnne Martin Anna Raneiri		
9/17	Marylynne Endy Patrick Magner		
9/18	Dena Gephart Westley Leck Ashleigh Weidner		

CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE CELEBRATING WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES IN SEPTEMBER.....

9/1	Kristopher & Jennifer Moyer	15 yrs.
9/3	Tim & Sharon Loscig John & Fawn Schroeder	22 yrs. 44 yrs.
9/5	Richard & Rita Christman	57 yrs.
9/6	Warren & Donna Saylor	52 yrs.
9/7	Laine & Debbie Kasdras	25 yrs.
9/8	Zachary & Carey Coyle	14 yrs.
9/12	Michael & Kendra Day	7 yrs.
9/15	Ryan & Jen Davidheiser	14 yrs.
9/16	Rob & Sandi Levengood	26 yrs.
9/18	Brian & Courtney Gougler Richard & Sue Kucharik	17 yrs. 22 yrs.
9/20	Franklin & Marianne Brown	41 yrs.
9/21	Rich & Lisa Bowersox Donald & Diane Levengood Daryl & Deanna McCleary Scott & Rose Potts	25 yrs. 53 yrs. 36 yrs. 36 yrs.
9/26	Howard & Connie Hunter Mike & Brittany Weidner	62 yrs. 6 yrs.
9/29	Matthew & Brittany Cloutier Sean & Jennifer Kochert	9 yrs. 30 yrs.



SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

SEPTEMBER 2021 • ISSUE 9 • VOLUME 29

AN INCREDIBLE RETURN TO THE WOODS AT THE END OF THE RED DIRT ROAD

BY COLLIN GROOMS

No one would have asked to have a summer of youth camp canceled because of COVID, but certainly, as with any challenge, it is good when the positives of a situation can be found. Having a summer away from the routines of camp as it has “always been” gave Bear Creek Camp an opportunity to truly look at creating the camp experiences that campers and staff need right now.

In a world where we've been separated from our friends and families, taking the time to build a small, intentional community was most essential. This summer, each quest group crafted their own experience as they creatively planned their week's activities. For some that meant nature hikes into the depths of our woods or discovering every swimming location. For others that meant time on the high ropes course or writing new songs to be sung at bonfires.



Continuing Promises

For every group that meant finding unique ways to explore their faith through daily bible study and worship experiences. Camp has an enduring quality of being the place where campers can find whatever they are needing in the moment. Faith can be discovered and strengthened. Lifelong friends can be made. Personal discovery happens constantly as we're taken away from our comfort zones and shown a newly revealed world. Summer 2021 was an incredible return to the woods at the end of the red dirt road. We are so deeply grateful for our entire community that supported us in reaching this new beginning.



GROWING TOGETHER IN NEPSYNOD: MINLAB

On August 14, 2021 people from all over the NEPSynod gathered at the Lutheran Center to share ministry, ideas, and God's love with one another. Individuals who participated in MinLab were able to work together to build relationships with one another and the ministries of the other through authentic engagement, conversation, and questions. *The relationships we build at synod assemblies, special events, and through mutual collaboration are paramount to our work as Church.*

At MinLab, participants learned more about Growing Young and elements that are present in ministries that are actively "growing young." Participants also learned that congregational and organizational ministry is at the center of our work as a synod. *The synod is not a top-down organization, but instead, a collaboration of people working together to serve God's people.* Leaders in our synod, both lay and ordained, can't wait to see where the Spirit will lead us next.

September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30 AM—Bible Study (in-person) 6 PM—Outreach @ Longstaffs	2 Noon—Amity Fr. Circle 6 PM—T3	3 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	4 Art Yerger funeral 6 PM—Holy Comm
5 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm 9:30--Finance	6 <i>Labor Day</i>	7 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS 6:15--CDC	8 9:30 AM—Bible Study (in-person) 7 PM--Council	9 7 PM—Prayer Shawl	10 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	11 6 PM—Holy Comm
12 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm 9:15—Sun. School Rally Day	13 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom) 7 PM—Pastoral Care	14 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS	15 9:30 AM—Bible Study (in-person)	16 10 AM—Social Min 7 PM—Technology 7:30—Crime Watch	17 9 AM—4 PM—Serve food at Oley Fair 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	18 7:30 AM—Property 6 PM—Holy Comm
19 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm 9:15—Sun. School 11:30—Bible class	20 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	21 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS	22 9:30 AM—Bible Study (in-person) 7 PM—Worship & Music	23	24 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	25 Gokey Memorial service 6 PM—Holy Comm
26 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm 9:15—Sun. School	27 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom) 2-7—Blood Dr.	28 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS	29 9:30 AM—Bible Study (in-person)	30		