



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

AUGUST, 2022

Something changed for me after the 2012 mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School where 20 children and 6 adults were killed. I have still not come to terms with the horror of that event and the complete non-response by our society.

Jesus was and is unambiguously non-violent so there are lots of opportunities to address the fundamental nature of Christian nonviolence in reading and preaching the Gospel. But after Sandy Hook we did something else at St Paul's. In our weekly prayer group meeting on Wednesdays, before Bible study, when we prayed for our congregation, community, nation and world, we included a weekly prayer for communities which had experienced mass shootings.

At that time I discovered a website which simply compiles and posts data on gun violence www.gunviolencearchive.org and used that as my resource for our weekly prayers. The website defines MASS SHOOTING as: *Four or more shot and/or killed in a single event [incident], at the same general time and location not including the shooter.*

For 8 years our midweek prayer group remembered communities which had experienced mass shootings over the past week in our prayers. There were very few weeks when there was not at least one and most weeks there were 3 or 4.

Mid-week prayer group was itself a victim of the pandemic. Perhaps it will return in some form in the future.

After the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, in which 19 children and 2 adults were gunned down, I thought it was important to renew our congregational prayer for the communities suffering as a result of these events. If you have participated in worship you have heard the communities listed.

If you have been in worship and prayed the list of communities which have experienced mass shooting over the past week you have also learned, with me, that these incidents no longer average 3 or 4. Since introducing this petition into our weekly prayer, the number of mass shooting communities has not dipped below 10 with over 20 the week following the 4th of July.

Honestly, I dread seeing the list every week but I feel a responsibility, amidst the flurries of calls for thoughts and prayers, to actually be a place of prayer for those living amid this scourge. I believe prayer has the power to change circumstances and people. I fervently hope for change as we struggle with the epidemic of gun violence in the United States.

Since 2012 I have struggled with my faith in our culture to deal with this issue but I have not lost faith in Jesus' power to change hearts and minds and heal our sin-sick soul.

--Pastor Frey



FROM THE PARISH RECORDS.....

Wedding: 7/23/22 – Keaton Moyer & Ashley Kutz

Baptisms: 6/26/22 – Devin Ilona Raneiri

7/17/22 – William Robert Musetti

THOUGHTS ON TRUST—“TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART”

Proverbs 3:5-6

by Joy Gerhart

As I was trying to think of something to write that might be uplifting and meaningful, the word “trust” popped into my head. We have all heard the Bible verse, “trust in the Lord with all your heart” (and lean not on your own understanding) Proverbs 3:5-6. How good am I at trusting people? How good am I at trusting God? I remember doing “trust circle” exercises when I instructed children and their parents, preparing the children for their first communion. We would form a trust circle, and I would demonstrate. I always made sure there were adults in between the kids and that in my demonstration I fell toward an adult. (I was trying to be trusting, but not stupid.) I remember demonstrating trust at our outdoor VBS last summer (2021), and I thank the young friend who caught me. But that just scratches the surface of trust, doesn’t it? That’s trust that someone will look after my personal safety to the best of his or her ability, but there is so much more to trust. Keeping promises, being faithful, being loyal, telling the truth, . . . I looked at some definitions for the words used in the Bible for trust and found: to lean on, be confident, remain steadfast, give credence, wait with hope, to hope, to have confidence, believe, take refuge-- (Psalm 7:1, 11:1, 17:1, 71:1).

Do you have any idea which book of the Bible has the most references to trust? It’s the book of Psalms! There are at least 65 references and 23 are connected with the concept of refuge which I find quite interesting. Another interesting find was that there were not many references to the word “trust” in the New Testament, only about 31 (at least in the concordance I was using).

I was fortunate enough to be raised in a family with a mother and father I could trust completely and a younger brother I could trust to

constantly tease me and challenge me (we’re good friends, now). I grew up learning I could trust God completely. God would hear my prayers, and would answer, even though the answer was not always yes, but always for my own good. I had teachers I could trust, friends I could trust. Nobody let me down that I can remember. So why is trust such a big deal for me? Well, I guess when I was teaching high school English in Poughkeepsie, NY, there was a principal who I learned I couldn’t trust. Then later I encountered some other people I couldn’t trust, but probably the biggest incident was when I was abducted in April of 1982 by a young man with a butcher knife hiding in my car, that my strong sense of trust broke down. How could God let this happen to me? Isn’t God supposed to protect us? Don’t we tell children that God will keep us safe? This was probably the most earth-shattering life lesson I learned. It took a while, but when I was finally able to sleep at night again, I realized God HAD protected me. God had never left me; in fact, I felt the presence of God then more strongly than I had ever felt. The man who abducted me, tied me up, then untied me, forced me to climb into my car’s trunk (notice I don’t have a car with a trunk anymore?), fit the description of someone who had RAPED 6 women. But I was left unscathed, untouched. I was never alone. I also believe I had seen a couple things on TV which guided me to stay calm and cooperative which helped me. Forty dollars was stolen, and I still laugh when I think he rifled through my purse looking for the money and asked what the Fortress card was for. (Maybe some of you remember Fortress was the Lutheran supply store long ago before the LCA-ALC-AELC merger.) I said something like “That won’t be any good for you.” Everything seems kind of trivial after that, but that was 40 years ago. Certainly, in that time people have betrayed my trust. But God has been faithful. Most of us have learned we can’t trust everything we read or see or hear on TV or the internet or even from friends. Wisdom helps us become more discerning.

What can we learn from people in the Bible about trust in God? They were human just as we are. Sometimes they seem even more fallible than we would admit to being. Did Abraham trust in God? He trusted enough to travel a great distance to the land that God had promised. I am awed by some of the conversations Abraham had –asking if Eliezer would be his descendant since he, Abraham,



was growing old with no children (God promised Abraham he would have his own descendant in Genesis 15:6 and Abraham believed), urging God to save Sodom and Gomorrah by seeking fewer than 50 good men there (Genesis 18:22-33), and I think surely laughing on the inside when it was said Sarah would have child at age 90 after such a LOOOOONG wait (Genesis 18:13-14). Think about Jacob, the trickster, who wrestled with God or an angel (Genesis 32:22-31), who feared reconnecting with his brother Esau, though Esau was amazingly forgiving (Genesis 33:1-11). Think about Joseph, maybe he was a snotty entitled kid who drove his brothers insane, but I think of him in prison—singing the song “Close Every Door to Me” in *The Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*—wondering if he would ever get out, and at the end forgiving his brothers saying, “Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good.” (Genesis 50:20) And we haven’t even touched on Moses or David or the prophets. What we learn from the Bible is that God is faithful and fulfills promises. Sometimes the wait is very long, but the fulfillment comes. God promised a Messiah, and sent his own son. We can trust in God.

Trust, hope, faith, patience, truth. We’ve been dealing with a lot of trust issues during this pandemic. Can we trust the politicians? Can we trust the vaccines? How long is this going to last? Will things ever completely return to normal? (That’s an easy one—NO.) The definition of trust as “wait with hope” jumps to my mind here.

May you feel the presence of God in your life and may your trust grow stronger and stronger! “Trust in the Lord with all your heart”. And remember Jesus said, “I am with you always.”

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HAPPENINGS.....

ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASSES CONTINUE

Monday morning Bible studies at 10 am look at the upcoming Old Testament lesson at the Sunday service. Led by Joy Gerhart, these sessions last about 1 hour and can be found using this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87300892165?pwd=REVXbjJRQmdDSWNWV1FCMk9SSUR4Zz09#success>

Meeting ID: 873 0089 2165

Passcode: 067059

Class will not meet on August 22, 29, and September 5 (Labor Day)

Bible study on Wednesdays meets at 10:00 am in person in the Fellowship Hall and also is available online using the same link as Friday’s Bible Study sessions. The Gospel of John is currently being studied and is led by Pastor Frey.

Bible Study on Fridays meets at 10:00 am online and can be accessed through this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/219384065?pwd=RWRiSSStvcmx5ZlJ3TGVEVEM20rNTIOZz09#success>

Meeting ID: 219 384 065

Password: st.pauls

The upcoming Gospel lesson for Sunday is the topic for Study and Pastor Frey leads this class.

All are welcome to any and all of these studies. These sessions can be recorded upon request.

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SAVE THE DATE FOR RALLY DAY—SEPTEMBER 11 at 9:15 am

We have not completed our plans for our annual Rally day celebration, but we do hope you will save the date for fun and enrichment for all children and families.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Sunday School and Confirmation classes will resume on Sunday, September 18, at 9:15 am after our Rally Day celebration on September 11. All classes will be in-person (with the possible exception of the Adult class which may also be online); Age 4-K class, Grade 1-2, and Grade 3-4 will meet on the ground floor and Grades 5-6, Confirmation for grades 7-9, and Confirmation for grade 10 will meet downstairs.

Come join us on September 11 for Rally Day and September 18 for the start of our classes.

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: Melissa Woodruff, Keely Woodruff, Makenzy Wunderlich, Craig Yambor, Wendy Yambor, Marley Yambor, Luke Yambor, Carl Yerger, Carlene Yerger, Cynthia Yetter, Avery Yetter, Riley Yetter, Kennedy Yetter, Brooks Yetter, Ryan Yetter, Isabelle Yetter. If you have anyone to add to the prayer list, call the church office. Please pray for those with special concerns: Carole Barbary, Bruce Basch, Sue Blevins, Linda Breitenstein, Katie Cody, Diane Davis, Lee Dierolf, Eve, Heath Fegely, Richard Garrow, Norman Griffen, Anna Gyuris, Dave Hackett, Sara Hartline, Rusty High, Arlene Hildebeitel, Jackie Hurchalla, Kasper, Daniel, Kim Koury, Priscilla Leh, Lisa Lerch, Toby Minner, Craig Nichols, Carol Pearson, Nathan Resch, Sue Trout, Kitty Varady, Sarah Weider, Rick Weiler, Shelly Wilson, family and friends of Eileen Couch, 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, Lauren Ridge, Gene Schaeffer, Audrey Serrian, John Shaner, Ellen Sheeler, Vernet Spence-Brown, Jason Stalnecker, Joan Wendel, Craig Williams, Jane Williams; Sandi Zelinski, homebound -- Charles Brown, Fern Brown, Peggy Burns, Jennie Clouser, Carol DeLong, Betty High, Arlene Hildebeitel, Dale Szajek.

IT'S TIME TO MAKE THE CHOW CHOW.....



Chow Chow is just a few weeks away, and we are starting some preparations. We will be making Chow Chow during the week of August 22. More details to follow as we get closer.

In the meantime, we are looking for donations of new Ball Brand regular mouth quart jars with rings and lids. We also are in need of new Ball Brand regular mouth lids. If you are willing to donate, please leave the jars on a table in the Fellowship Hall.

BUS TRIP TO AMERICAN MUSIC THEATER.....



There are just a few more seats left to see the Christmas show at the American Music Theater on Thursday, November 10. This popular show is always beautiful and is a perfect way to start your Holiday Season.

Tickets are \$85.00 and include the show, bus trip, and lunch buffet at Yoder's Restaurant. Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or call Jan Schell at 610-779-7409. Send payment to Jan at 114 Wessex Court, Reading, PA, 19606 by September 30, 2022. Don't miss out!

OLEY FAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

The Oley Fair will be held this year on September 15, 16 & 17. The fair is in need of volunteers to help serve food. Our church is scheduled to serve on Friday, September 16. The Fair Association will be providing us with additional information at a later date. Check the eblast and September Newsletter for updates and how to volunteer.

SURVEY ON INTEREST IN ACTIVITIES FOR OUR WOMEN'S GROUP

Many things stopped during the height of the pandemic including Women's Group activities. Joy will be emailing and snail mailing surveys to people who have been involved in the past. Please ask for a survey or offer suggestions if you do not receive one right away. One serious thought is that we may not want to meet in the evening after dark, primarily to avoid night driving issues. We need to build back the wonderful fellowship opportunities we had pre-pandemic. Call Joy at the church if you have some recommendations on times to meet or activities.



The Social Ministry Committee is partnering with the Daniel Boone Middle School to provide students with basic supplies for a successful school year. A box will be in the narthex for your donations.

Bring your items on or before Sunday, August 7

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|--|-------------------|
| Fidget gadgets (Dollar store) | index cards |
| 1 inch 3 ring binders | post-it notes |
| 2 inch 3 ring flexible binders | highlighters |
| 5 or 8 tab index dividers | composition books |
| notebook paper | spiral notebooks |
| closable pencil pouch with 3 holes to put in binders | |
| red pencils | #2 pencils |
| mechanical pencils | tissues |

stylus pen compatible with an iPad

Stylus Pen <https://www.walmart.com/ip/onn-Stylus-Set-10-Pack-Assorted-Colors/213187335>

earbuds lightning jack connection or stereo jack connection
(earbuds can be found at Five Below or the Dollar Store)

Earbuds at Five Below: <https://www.fivebelow.com/products/runner-earbuds-w-built-in-mic>

Ti-34 multiview calculator

For distribution by the nurse:

Girls and ladies bikini underwear
(small, med and large)



Many thanks for your prayers and kindness during my recent illness. For several months, I was contacted daily by church family with phone calls, lovely cards, visits, and meals. To say I was astonished by the outpouring of love and concern from church family is putting it mildly. While I was unable to have a physical presence in church, I never felt isolated. Recently I have improved greatly and am almost back to myself.

With thanks, MJ Talbott

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Thank you for recognizing me at church for my graduation and for the reception and framed gift. I appreciate the support the Pastor, Joy, and congregation have given me over the years. I look forward to returning to VBS and other church activities even at college in New York.

Emma (Serrian)

Happy Birthday!

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|------|---|------|--|
| 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 Knapp |
| 8/8 | James Breen
Myla Eisenhard
Ariana Haraske
Aubrey Ridge
Erna Vroman | 8/21 | Lily Guldin |
| 8/9 | Brian Miller | 8/22 | Valerie Day
Grant Moser
Mark Smith |
| 8/10 | Gryffin Cappellano
Mia DeNardo
McKenna Detwiler
Andrew Kresge
Sophia Lott | 8/23 | Tim Shell |
| 8/12 | Joseph Price
Kim Sarro | 8/24 | Christopher Venn |
| | | 8/25 | Allie Dougherty
Donna Meloy |
| | | 8/26 | Tyler Bennis
Sandi Levensgood |
| | | 8/27 | Liam Conway
Mary Levensgood
Melissa Woodruff |
| | | 8/28 | Connor Reed |
| | | 8/29 | Olivia Hendricks
Rob Levensgood
Jennifer Moyer
Chase Oesterling |
| | | 8/31 | Bonnie Steever
Scott Potts |

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY TO:

John & Elizabeth Dollhopf	8/1	24 yrs.
Bruce & Pam Cope	8/4	32 yrs.
David & Vicki Hiser	8/6	39 yrs.
Charles & Susan Fix	8/9	25 yrs.
Michael & Wendy Hasara	8/12	16 yrs.
Bruce & Janet Musselman	8/12	44 yrs.
Bill & Angie Kutz	8/16	36 yrs.
Paul & Laurie Muschick	8/17	26 yrs.
Matthew & Katrina Fusco	8/18	10 yrs.
Dave & Jan Bause	8/19	61 yrs.
Jeff & Sheila Angstadt	8/20	34 yrs.
Ed & Sandra Berger	8/20	28 yrs.
Greg & Susie Kresge	8/20	28 yrs.
Michael & Carol Pearson	8/20	45 yrs.
Wayne & Lynn Grace	8/24	48 yrs.
Herb & Darlene Schoenly	8/26	27 yrs.
Tom & Judy Morrow	8/27	52 yrs.
Jason & Apryll Ware	8/30	15 yrs.



Hope you are having a safe and fun-filled summer, but please keep in mind that the church does not take a vacation in the summer. In order to continue the everyday operations of our church and its ministries, your ongoing contributions are very important.

SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA



I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:18-19)

The verse above centers the theme of Bear Creek Camp for its Summer 2022 season: "Wild Abundance." Whenever I get to visit the Camp - which is the geographically largest camp in the ELCA Outdoor Ministry system - I am always struck with how big God's blessings are to us, and for us. The "Wild Abundance" of BCC also points to the whole point of God's abundant grace and gifts: we are blessed to be a blessing. God gives, without conditions, so that we may give the same way, and share joy and life, in an unlimited and everlasting spiral - reaching down to those in need, reaching up towards forgiveness and strength from God, who out of love for us and for Christ's sake promises to raise us all. So we give, to Mission Support - to bless ministries like BCC, so they may bless all who come to them, with God's Wild Abundance. + Bishop Christopher deForest



The Summer of 2021 at Bear Creek Camp was one of rediscovery of much of what had put on hold in 2020 and one of reinvention of new ways to live out our calling of building community and individuals while exploring, celebrating, and growing in God's creation. As we look forward to continuing to build on this foundation in for Summer Camp in 2022, we reflect back on one of the most powerful moments of returning to camp in 2021.

The first Sunday night of this past summer's Session One after a tasty dinner of spaghetti and meatballs, all the campers gathered together as a large group for the very first time around the bonfire circle. While learning and singing songs, the woods once again fully echoed with the glee of campers returning to this place so many call their second home. Near the midpoint of that first gathering, there was a quiet moment of pause. Looking around the circle, summer staff were in their brand-new teal tee-shirts keeping their heads on a swivel making sure their campers were all okay. Two campers that hadn't seen each other since camp two years prior held hands in that way only best camp friends do. Nervous first-time campers reacted every time a hemlock log would pop in the fire shooting sparks high up in the sky. This small moment in time was the manifestation of all the work our community had done over the past two years came to fruition; all the supporters that it took to get to that point of sharing in God's love as a community around a simple campfire.

Everything we do at camp throughout the year is building to moments like those opening bonfires. Whether facilities projects, summer staff salaries, food purchases or camperships - every resource we steward is moving us towards living into our shared mission. With your generous individual and congregational gifts and Mission Support throughout this past year and prayerfully continuing into the future, we look forward to further building the BCC community and welcoming all to experience the power of God within this place. + Collin Grooms, Executive Director

Bear Creek Camp seeks to provide a place apart: to live and grow in God's creation. Your mission support allows campers and staff to experience God in a new way. Campers discover young adult role models, and staff put their faith into action. In fact, the majority of seminarians cite outdoor ministry as key to their vocation story. Thank you for your faithful, generous, and consistent giving to Mission Support! It makes a difference as we endeavor to live out that mission.

Find synod news
and events at
godslove.org



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10 AM—Bible Study 7 PM—Christian Ed.	2 Quilting 2 PM—TOPS 2 PM—Knit & crochet	3 10 AM—Bible Study	4 Noon—Amity Fr. Circle	5 10 AM—Bible Study	6 6 PM—Holy Comm
7 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:30 AM--Finance	8 10 AM—Bible Study 6:30 PM -- CDC 7 PM—Pastoral Care	9 Quilting 9 AM—Knit & crochet 2 PM--TOPS	10 10 AM—Bible Study 7 PM--Council	11 T3 Committee	12 10 AM—Bible Study	13 6 PM—Holy Comm
14 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm.	15 10 AM—Bible Study	16 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS 2 PM—Knit &	17 10 AM—Bible Study	18 9:30 AM—Social Min.	19 10 AM—Bible Study	20 7:30 AM--Property 6 PM—Holy Comm
21 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm.	22	23 Quilting 9 AM—Knit & crochet 2 PM--TOPS	24 10 AM—Bible Study 7 PM—Worship & Music	25	26 10 AM—Bible Study	27 6 PM—Holy Comm
28 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. Church picnic	29	30 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS 2 PM—Knit & crochet	31 10 AM—Bible Study			