



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

MAY, 2022

Every year in the first days after Easter Day I invariably find myself in the church sanctuary sorting through left behind bonnets and unclaimed lilies and wondering what is next. Jesus is risen...and...now what? It is like the classic last scene from the movie *The Graduate*. Dustin Hoffman has crashed the wedding of the woman he loves who is about to marry someone else. She decides for him and they run off together, her wedding gown swishing all the way. They clamor onto a local bus and smiling and laughing, find their way to the rear seat. Once there, the camera continues to run (unbeknownst to the actors) and the smiles slowly wear away and are replaced with that distinctly pensive look, "Now what do we do?"

Our first impulse is to celebrate the resurrection by taking stock of what has been accomplished on our behalf. What's in it for me? A very modern question but not an unimportant one. The weakest interpretation of the resurrection is that it is principally an eternal insurance policy, good to have for sure but only tangentially relevant for the here and now. I can imagine Jesus grimacing at such an attitude. Why does it matter that Jesus was raised from the dead in the course of our daily lives? This, I believe, is the primary question the gospels sought to answer in laying out their accounts of the resurrected Jesus Christ.

In the Easter story in the Gospel of Mark, the earliest gospel and the foundation for Matthew and Luke, the messenger who meets the women at the tomb reminded them of Jesus' instructions, "*But go, tell his disciples and Peter that (Jesus) is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.*" (Mark 16:7) Galilee is where Jesus started his ministry. In an important way the resurrection impels a

return to the beginning of the story. It is a starting over. But far from a redo or a retread of the same path, now everything is different. This is where the teaching and actions of Jesus, the rabbi from Nazareth become so important.

After the resurrection the disciples were called to return to the beginning of the story and take up their discipleship again. First time around they were failures but now everything will be different. Jesus is raised. They are a part of the risen Lord who continues to work in their midst and through them. What they do now matters. God's will has been established and affirmed in the resurrected Jesus. Now even death cannot end the establishment of God's vision for a world based on love. The disciples are sent back to show and tell.

I have written a lot recently about the imperative of the church, post-pandemic, to begin again. But the new beginning is not a starting from scratch. It is the new beginning pointed to at the end of Mark's gospel. In the light of Jesus' resurrection followers of Jesus are directed to go back to where it all began and start anew, bringing the possibility of new life, resurrected life, to sheep in need of a shepherd.

The new start of the resurrected community is centered on the new reality Jesus brought into the world through his life, death and resurrection.

In Jesus' life he announced the coming of the Kingdom of God. More than a place, the Kingdom of God is a way of life, a way of being. Things are done differently in the Kingdom of God than they are in the "kingdoms" of our world. Jesus brought the character of God's kingdom into the midst of the people. In healing, in equity, in equality God's kingdom infused Jesus entire life. His unwavering dedication to the principles of that kingdom account for his death. And the "ratification" of that kingdom, God's commitment to the way of Jesus, radiates through his resurrection.

Now we who have a share in the risen Lord and have come out of what the book of Revelation might call "the great ordeal" are called to retrace Jesus' steps and be about the things he is about: healing, equity, justice, and compassion. These are not to be mere ideals, but the grounding principles of those "returning to Galilee;" rebooting discipleship in light

of the resurrected Jesus. And these Kingdom of God principles form the core of our post pandemic reboot as well.

Jesus is risen...and...now what? Go back to Galilee and find your place in the ministry of Jesus. Do it daily. Live out Christ's ministry in your life, with your people, in your time. This is what it means to follow the resurrected Christ. It is what we do now. Jesus is risen, and so are we!

Pastor Frey

MAY 15 10:30 AM worship will be at Frieden's Lutheran

Church in Oley We will participate in a joint worship service with 7 other Lutheran Churches in the Oley area outside under a tent with special music and a sermon from the Rev Michael Bennethum. A picnic lunch will follow the service for those who wish to remain. Services on Saturday May 14 at 6:00 PM and Sunday May 15 at 8:00 AM will be held as normally scheduled at St Paul's. But please consider the special worship opportunity with the wider Lutheran Community!

FROM THE PARISH RECORDS.....

Contributions to the **Memorial Fund** in memory of **Henry "Hank" Rhoads** given by:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| Jane Kinder | Fred & Meridith Gaskins |
| JoAnne Merkel | Lions Club |
| Sue Walley | Steven & Kara Rhoads |

Contribution to the **Agape Fund** in memory of **Henry "Hank" Rhoads** given by Gary & Cindy Weidner

Contributions to the **Memorial Fund** in memory of **John Bonslaver** given by:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Charles & Fern Brown | Gloria Rhoads |
| Charles Merkle | Helen Strain |
| Paul & Kay Reber | Sue Walley |
| Pat Roland | Carol Pearson |
| Guy & Marianne Graefe | Jane Kinder |
| Frank & Kathy Jablonski | Lions Club |
| Barbara Keim | Rob & Sandi Levengood |
| Pat Levengood | James & Kathleen Koones |

Contributions to the **Agape Fund** in memory of **John Bonslaver** given by:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------|
| Gary & Cindy Weidner | Jan Schell |
| Greg & Norma Godon | Anna Brown |

--YTD Giving thru March, 2022--

	Jan.-- <u>Mar. 2021</u>	Jan.-- <u>Mar. 2022</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>% chg.</u>
Offerings	\$ 93,765	\$ 92,062	-1,702	-1.82
Vision 2020 Contr.	14,756	12,670	-2,085	-14.13
Total Giving	\$ 108,521	\$ 104,732	-3,789	-3.49

THOUGHTS.....BY Joy Gerhart

I joined the chime choir which is playing two beautiful hymns, each starting with the word NOW. (Does this sound like Pastor Frey's Easter sermon that some of you heard? "Resurrection Now!") Few things really make it clear how important it is to have everybody present than in a chime or bell choir. Even in a choir you can often get away with having a few people out, as long as you have one or two people singing the soprano, alto, tenor, baritone parts (even though the others will be missed); but with chimes or bells with each person playing one or two different bells, it just doesn't sound complete unless everyone is there.

There are many images and metaphors for the body of Christ --which we are. I have shown children a movie called *Space Camp* where a rocket takes off unexpectedly, and each person must use his or her gifts to help them return safely to the earth. They must work together and listen to each other. They do and (spoiler alert!) they return safely. St. Paul talks about how we are the body of Christ, and each of us, like the organs in our body, have special functions and abilities and responsibilities to keep the whole body healthy. Thankfully most of the time this works.

God needs us all and the church needs us all. No one is unimportant. Everyone has value. Doesn't your heart rejoice when you see old friends returning to church, or if you are worshiping online, seeing the church fuller? You are important. Your gifts are important. Phone callers, letter writers, drivers, cooks, servers, clean-up crews, program planners, dish washers, teachers, readers, quilters, knitters, crocheters, visitors, repair people, gardeners, I.T. experts, videographers, singers, ringers . . . It feels like we are coming back to life, like in Ezekiel's valley of the dry bones, muscle and skin are growing back on bones and coming to life again! This time feels like a resurrection of sorts. This "pandemic thing" isn't completely over, but we are emerging from the cocoon. This is the time to be seen and heard, this is the time to listen to each other (just as we are told to do in our chime choir) and rejoice and share our talents. This is perhaps even the time to try new ideas. Listen to God and each other and share your faithful tones with the people of God.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS.....

Vacation Bible School is coming!

June 12-16



Mark your calendars, if you haven't already, for this year's week of VBS – **June 12-16!** Our program promises to be lots of fun as we will travel as Rainforest Explorers through palm trees and swinging monkeys and bright flowers. Our puppet mascot will be Sidney the Sloth. (That should be interesting.) Our

stories will include Noah's Ark, the Ten Commandments, Jesus calls the disciples, the Ten lepers, and the Resurrected Jesus sharing Breakfast on the Beach with the disciples (John 21). Registration forms will be available soon. You can always call the church and speak to Joy Gerhart to register. We have not set the exact times yet, but we will meet in the evening during the week. Grab your tropical shirts and plan to join us!

Adult Education

Sunday Adult Study classes will resume April 24. We have one more DVD session with Mark Allan Powell ("Devotional Bible Reading") and several more available with David Lose (including "How Can I Read the Bible with Greater Understanding?"). The class begins online at 9:15 am Sunday mornings and the zoom link is 827 2209 0356 with the pass code 598177.

On Mondays during the Easter season, we will be studying lessons from the Book of Acts which will be first readings in church. April 25 is Acts 9:1-20 (The conversion of Saul), May 2 is Acts 9:36-43 (Peter and Tabitha), May 9 is Acts 11:1-18 (Peter's Dream), May 16 is Acts 16:9-15 (Lydia), May 23 is Acts 16:16-40 (Paul and Silas in Prison), and May 30 is a vacation day, but the lesson for Sunday will be Acts 2:1-21 (Pentecost). The Zoom meeting ID number for Monday's Bible study at 10 am is 873 0089 2165 and the passcode is 067059.

Wednesdays continue to be the study of the Gospel of John, both online and in-person. Fridays will explore the gospel lesson coming up on the following Sunday (all of which happen to be in the Gospel of John in May). Both start at 10 am and both can be accessed by zoom with meeting id number 219 384 065 and the password st.pauls .

Sunday School News

We are planning on having another painting party for the elementary-aged children in Sunday school on May 15 (at 9:15 am). Our project this time will be a Pentecost mural. The children really seemed to enjoy painting the Last Supper mural, so we thought we'd try it again with a new topic. Painting will be done in the room used by the 3rd and 4th grade class. Make sure children don't wear their best clothes this day. Parents are welcome to come and help. We will plan to have the mural on display on Pentecost which is June 5 this year.



Sunday School Thank You's

Thanks to all who helped with the Sunday School Program—Follow the Cross! We had a wonderful turn out. Pictures are on display in the narthex. We were able to complete 65 hygiene kits for disaster relief. Thanks to our fine youth who helped on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday hiding eggs for our Easter egg hunt. Have no doubt, creativity abounds among our youth, especially when it comes to hiding eggs! Thanks Jared, Cory, Henry, Evan, Mark, and Jess!



Confirmation is coming up soon!

Pentecost is the time of great excitement and part of the excitement is giving our young people the opportunity to affirm their faith in church. This year **Pentecost is June 5**, and we have 5 young people who will be confirmed on this Sunday—Riley Haring, Evan Miller, Reese Muschick, Mark Smith, and Nathan Tindall. Since Two other confirmation classes were “cheated” out of a congregational reception because of the pandemic, we will be holding a reception after church on June 5 for all of the young people confirmed in 2020, 2021, and 2022. Come join us for the great celebration. Use it as an opportunity to reaffirm your faith!

NEW PROCEDURE FOR VISITING THE CHURCH DURING A WEEKDAY..

Have you noticed the new set of doors in the CDC entrance? Maybe not because we have asked you to stay away from that entrance. And maybe not since the new doors look like they have always been in that area of the church because they match the others so well. You can now enter the “CDC” doors and walk straight to the church office. Susanne will still have to buzz you in. The security system has now been changed (as of April 15) to require a special fob or code for any who wish to enter the new CDC doorway. In addition, in the back hallway, the door which was so hard to get around to get to the elevator and stairs, no longer has a security lock since that lock has been moved to the double doors farther down the hallway. This will create free access for all members of the congregation to use the stairs or elevator without the assistance of someone with a key! We have many people to thank

including Pastor Frey, Nancy Stewart and Rich Saylor for envisioning and helping to organize the project.

CROCHET AND KNITTING GROUP

All are welcome to join the crochet and knitting group, to knit or crochet or just chat. We are scheduled to meet at 2 pm on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesdays in the library, and at 9 am on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in the Quilting Room. Confused? Sometimes we are too. You can call the church to check. You are always welcome to come down to chat with the quilters on Tuesdays at 9 am.



WE'RE DECORATING WITH RED GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST.....

On Pentecost, June 5, we would like to decorate the sanctuary with red geraniums. An order form is printed below if you care to place an order. Cost is \$5.50 per plant. You may take the geraniums or leave them to be planted around the church building.



Yes, I/We would like to order ____ red geraniums @ \$5.50 per plant.
Amount Due _____

____ I/We will be taking the geraniums,

____ I/We will be leaving the geraniums to be planted in the church beds.

Information for announcements: Given to the Glory of God—

____ In Honor of _____ by _____

____ In Memory of _____ by _____

____ As a gift by _____

Name _____

Deadline to order is Sunday, May 22.

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: Dave Walt, Danielle Walt, Zoe Walt, Cooper Walt, Gloria Walt, Troy Walter, Jessica Walter, Savannah Walter, Sydney Walter, Jason Ware, Apryll Ware, Jackson Ware. If you have anyone to add to the prayer list, call the church office. Please pray for those with special concerns: Bruce Basch, Sue Blevins, Linda Breitenstein, Gail Clifford, Diane Davis, Eve, Heath Fegely, Bob Fisher, Angela Fonte, Darin Freed, Greg Godon, Anna Gyuris, Sara Hartline, Chris Hoyt, Jackie Hurchalla, Kasper, Daniel, Kim Koury, Priscilla Leh, Susanne Leier, Lisa Lerch, Craig Nichols, Carol Pearson, Sue Trout, Kitty Varady, Sarah Weider, Rick Weiler, Steve Willar, Shelly Wilson, family & friends of Shawn Cadden, John Bonslaver, Chris Hoyt, William Mohler, Elizabeth Roy, 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 Stalneck, 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.

ROAD CLEAN UP.....

Did you know St Paul's is a road sponsor of part of Monocacy Creek Road? Yep! We keep that stretch of road nice and tidy. We will be out for our spring clean up May 7 meeting at Monocacy School at 9:00 AM. The whole project takes an hour or so and even less if we have additional volunteers!

CHURCH CLEAN UP....

The annual spring clean up day at the church is also scheduled for Saturday, May 7 (rain date May 14). Come out with some gloves, rakes, and other items to help clean the church property. Work will be occurring *inside* as well for those who don't want to help outside.



5/1	Brittany Cloutier Calla Eisenhard Sherry Rhoads Jim Trout	5/15	Katherine Trout Carl Yerger
5/2	Brian Hicks Janet Musselman	5/17	Rich Bowersox Drew Musselman
5/3	Tiffany Cappellano Alexander Crichton Darlene Light	5/19	Marianne Graefe Zachary Hasara Linda Heisey Howard Hunter Ashley Kutz Tim Simmons
5/4	Lily Dougherty Kayleigh Johnson Anna Trout	5/20	Betty Brumbach Mya Saylor
5/5	Diane Davis Tatum Poole	5/21	Sharon Loscig Seth Szajek
5/6	Katlyn Hilbert	5/22	Nathaniel Crichton
5/7	Lucas Gross Claudia McCalicher Lucien McDaniel Ronald Rhoads Judy Weiler	5/23	Ruth Krouse Apryll Ware
5/8	Jack Prizer Darrell Reitmeyer Ryan Yetter	5/24	John Bologa Jennifer Matosky
5/9	Reese Muschick	5/25	Carter Longstaff
5/10	Riley Yetter	5/26	Jan Bause
5/11	Linda Kiak Andrew Weiler	5/28	Baylee Dominick Sieglinde Fretz Laine Kasdras Rachel Weiler
5/12	William Gleeson	5/29	Jenevieve Bortz Matthew Mengel
5/15	Joshua Secord	5/30	Dale Szajek
		5/31	Harlan Swavely

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO—

Tim & Bonnie Simmons	5/3	42 yrs.
Ray & Pat Oxenford	5/5	60 yrs.
Andrew & Megan Poux	5/6	11 yrs.
Rick & Judy Weiler	5/7	4 yrs.
Charles & Anne Weiser	5/9	52 yrs.
Fred & Mary Ellen Hoffert	5/11	54 yrs.
Larry & Eileen Swavely	5/14	67 yrs.
James & Renee Waring	5/16	15 yrs.
Ralph & Robin Rohrbach	5/19	38 yrs.
Richard & Debbie Konarski	5/21	28 yrs.
Jim & Kim Sarro	5/21	28 yrs.
Barry & Carol Gross	5/22	51 yrs.
Jim & Judy Trout	5/22	53 yrs.
Nathan & Elizabeth Haring	5/24	18 yrs.
Keith & April Royer	5/24	36 yrs.
Charles & Joyce Drey	5/27	61 yrs.

Thank you...Thank you...Thank you...

Thank you so much for the basket of flowers and balloons sent to me following my knee surgery and for your prayers, cards and expressions of concern. Also, a huge thank you to Susie Kresge for doing an excellent job in the church office in my absence.

Susanne Leier

Kay Bonslaver would like to thank every for the beautiful cards, thoughts, prayers and well wishes she received following the passing of John.

AMITY FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE NOVEMBER BUS TRIP TO American Music Theater Christmas Show Thursday, November 10, 2022

\$85 payable to Amity Friendship Circle

Includes buffet luncheon at Yoder's

Bus transportation by New Rhoads

Call Jan Schell at 610-779-7409 or sign up in the narthex.



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD NEWS

MAY 2022 • ISSUE 5 • VOLUME 80

What's it like to be a Pastoral Intern in NEPA?

By Melissa Hrdlicka

It is hard to believe I have been on internship with Common Ground Recovery Community for nine months already! My time with Common Ground has been a deep blessing to me and to my education. I have witnessed the presence of God in the open vulnerable sharing during our Wednesday worship, in the heartfelt reverent "thank you's" when serving communion and meals in downtown Reading and in our study of the scriptures and 12-steps. Common Ground truly is a place of radical love and where God's grace embraces our brokenness.

As part of my internship project, I invited our worshipping communities and ministry partners to reflect on these three questions: What does Common Ground mean to you? What does community mean to you? And where do you see God here and in the world? They then drew on white cotton squares that will be sewn together to make an altar cloth to fit all of our communion tables. The responses were profound and beautiful!

There are drawings of stick figures holding hands around the globe, animals peacefully living together, a place of refuge in the storm and in the desert, flowers, hearts, and crosses. There are phrases like, "Freedom, break the chains", "God is love", "We are better together", "Never give up hope because there is hope in everything", and so much more on these 33 squares!

As these squares are knit together to make one, we are reminded that God weaves all of us together in a tapestry of love to bring warmth, comfort, grace, and peace to a weary world! May we live out this good news and may it spill over into thanksgiving! (Colossians 2:2-7)

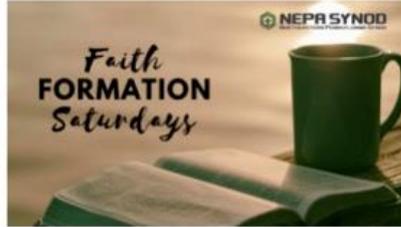


Our 2022 Assembly will be held online on June 10-11. Each congregation is entitled to bring two voting members. Register on the synod website today! Godslove.org

STEWARDSHIP EXTRAVAGANZA



JUNE 18, 2022
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, LANSDALE
AN EVENT ORGANIZED BY THE SEPA AND NEPA SYNODS
(REGISTRATION FORTHCOMING)



Join us on the 2nd Saturday of every month!
(more information on our website)



APRIL 23 & 24, 2022, 1PM-4PM
RAIN OR SHINE, BAREBONES EVENT. BRING YOUR OWN KNIFE, CUTTING BOARD, DRINKS, AND SNACKS. WE'LL BE CUTTING THE SEED POTATOES FOR PLANTING SEASON! ALL ARE INVITED! JUST WALK-IN AND HELP!

BECKER'S ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
265 MAIDEN CREEK ROAD
FLEETWOOD, PA 19522

Three Years of Growth and Change



GROWING YOUNG



GAINING STRENGTH



BEYOND DEATH TO LIFE

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—Sun. School</p>	<p>2 10 AM—Bible Study 7 PM—Christian Ed.</p>	<p>3 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS 2 PM—Knit & crochet</p>	<p>4 10 AM—Bible Study</p>	<p>5 Noon—Amity Fr. Circle 7 PM—Choir</p>	<p>6 10 AM—Bible Study</p>	<p>7 9 AM—Road clean-up Spring clean-up at church 6 PM—Holy Comm</p>
<p>8 <i>Mothers Day</i> 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—Sun. School 9:30--Finance</p>	<p>9 10 AM—Bible Study 6:30—CDC 7 PM—Pastoral Care</p>	<p>10 Quilting 9 AM—Knit & crochet 2 PM--TOPS</p>	<p>11 10 AM—Bible Study 7 PM--Council</p>	<p>12 7 PM—Choir</p>	<p>13 10 AM—Bible Study</p>	<p>14 6 PM—Holy Comm</p>
<p>15 8 AM—Holy Comm. No 10:30 9:15—Sun. School 1 PM—Girl Scouts</p>	<p>16 10 AM—Bible Study</p>	<p>17 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS 2 PM—Knit & crochet</p>	<p>18 10 AM—Bible Study</p>	<p>19 9:30 AM—Social Min. 6 PM—T3</p>	<p>20 10 AM—Bible Study</p>	<p>21 7:30 AM--Property 6 PM—Holy Comm</p>
<p>22 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—Sun. School</p>	<p>23 10 AM—Bible Study</p>	<p>24 Quilting 9 AM—Knit & crochet 2 PM--TOPS</p>	<p>25 10 AM—Bible Study 7 PM—Worship & Music</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 10 AM—Bible Study</p>	<p>28 6 PM—Holy Comm</p>
<p>29 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—Sun. School</p>	<p>30 <i>Memorial Day</i></p>	<p>31 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS 2 PM—Knit & crochet</p>				