



**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

**NOVEMBER, 2022**

**DANGER OF CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM.....**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer is one of Lutheranism's most significant recent martyrs. Put to death by the Nazis in the waning days of World War II, Bonhoeffer was a Lutheran pastor who founded an underground seminary in resistance to the state church (Reichskirche) established by Hitler. We should remember that Bonhoeffer's resistance was necessitated by the fact that the majority of leaders of the protestant churches in Germany collaborated with the state church, often enthusiastically. To this day, Christianity in Germany has never fully recovered.

Christian nationalism is easy to condemn in its Nazi Germany manifestation but a bit tougher in our own country and context. Yet Christian nationalism has become a major component in American Christianity, especially Protestant Evangelical Christianity. The movement marries Christian identity and a particular partisan political agenda which elevates the nation as God's unique instrument and equates political leaders with divine messages, mandates and manifestations. This movement is not an abstraction or aberration, large scale rallies are scheduled in Pennsylvania venues and churches featuring partisan political Christian "warriors" calling for revolution.

As a citizen I have particular opinions about the dangers of this for American democracy, but it is in my role as a pastor that I feel it necessary to point out Christian Nationalism's danger to Christianity and, more importantly, people's faith in Jesus Christ. Perhaps there is nothing in the history of Christianity more predictably damaging to faith

than the conflation of raw political power with the Church of the crucified Jesus Christ.

Martin Luther recognized the danger of the concentration of religious and secular power in his own life (he was declared an outlaw by the emperor because of his religious objections) and described the Christian life as one lived within Two Kingdoms; the Kingdom of God proclaimed by the church and ruled by Christ and the kingdoms of this world overseen by secular powers. God is active in both kingdoms, but they have different purposes and objectives and must never be conflated into one.

It is entirely proper and appropriate for us to be a loyal, patriotic citizens of our nation and committed followers of Jesus. It is equally appropriate for political leaders to talk about their own religious faith (or lack of faith) and how that might influence their decisions in public matters. What is not appropriate is for a political leader to use their power or office to diminish or preference a particular faith or to suggest that they are, or their political agenda is, the embodiment of God's will and they and their movement are God's unique instrument for governing.

For the sake of the integrity of the Gospel of Jesus Christ Christians must reject such claims regardless of who or what political party or movement might make them.

In 2019 a statement by protestant church leaders was endorsed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. I offer it as a guide.

CHICAGO — The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), has joined Christian leaders in a statement against Christian nationalism.

"Whether we worship at a church, mosque, synagogue, or temple, America has no second-class faiths," their statement reads. "All are equal under the U.S. Constitution."

The full statement follows:  
As Christians, our faith teaches us everyone is created in God's image and commands us to love one another. As Americans, we value our

system of government and the good that can be accomplished in our constitutional democracy. Today, we are concerned about a persistent threat to both our religious communities and our democracy — Christian nationalism.

Christian nationalism seeks to merge Christian and American identities, distorting both the Christian faith and America's constitutional democracy. Christian nationalism demands Christianity be privileged by the State and implies that to be a good American, one must be Christian. It often overlaps with and provides cover for white supremacy and racial subjugation. We reject this damaging political ideology and invite our Christian brothers and sisters to join us in opposing this threat to our faith and to our nation.

As Christians, we are bound to Christ, not by citizenship, but by faith. We believe that:

- People of all faiths and none have the right and responsibility to engage constructively in the public square.
- Patriotism does not require us to minimize our religious convictions.
- One's religious affiliation, or lack thereof, should be irrelevant to one's standing in the civic community.
- Government should not prefer one religion over another or religion over nonreligion.
- Religious instruction is best left to our houses of worship, other religious institutions and families.
- America's historic commitment to religious pluralism enables faith communities to live in civic harmony with one another without sacrificing our theological convictions.
- Conflating religious authority with political authority is idolatrous and often leads to oppression of minority and other marginalized groups as well as the spiritual impoverishment of religion.
- We must stand up to and speak out against Christian nationalism, especially when it inspires acts of violence and intimidation—including vandalism, bomb threats, arson, hate crimes, and attacks on houses of worship—against religious communities at home and abroad.

Whether we worship at a church, mosque, synagogue, or temple, America has no second-class faiths. All are equal under the U.S. Constitution. As Christians, we must speak in one voice condemning

Christian nationalism as a distortion of the gospel of Jesus and a threat to American democracy.

--Pastor Frey

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

**Baptisms:** Oct. 23: **Grace Elizabeth Johnson** and **Levi Noah Johnson**, children of Shea & Jennifer (Pinel) Johnson

Contributions in memory of **Rusty High** given by:

- Pat Levengood to the Memorial Fund
- Dr. John & Jeane Serrian to the Agape Fund

--YTD Giving thru September 2022--				
	<u>Jan.-Sept. 2021</u>	<u>Jan-Sept. 2022</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>% chg.</u>
Offerings	\$ 260,086	\$ 268,467	8,381	3.22
Vision 2020 Contr.	40,074	38,673	-1,401	-3.50
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 300,160</b>	<b>\$ 307,140</b>	<b>6,980</b>	<b>2.27</b>

**THOUGHTS ON SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

**by Joy Gerhart**

Several women and I met in October to study and discuss Spiritual Gifts. Many had not heard of this topic before; others had but weren't sure what it was about. We looked at a Women of the ELCA resource to guide us in exploring this topic.

First, we talked about how each of us is gifted by God uniquely, just as much as our fingerprints are different and we have different physical characteristics. Perhaps we could call this our spiritual DNA. It is important that we discover or become more aware of our gifts so we can better use them. The purpose of our spiritual gifts is to give unity to the church as the body of Christ and help it grow (not just numerically, but spiritually too!). Our gifts are really not given to us to serve ourselves but to serve God and the community of believers.

We looked at what the Bible said about spiritual gifts and the body of Christ. Surely many of you are familiar with the passages about the body of Christ in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12. I particularly like Paul's analogy to the Christian community as a body—and how we could not function if we were all the same. If we were all eyes, how could we hear or talk, or eat? We are differently gifted so that we can work together and function as a complete entity—the body of Christ to serve God in this world. Well, the part that might not be AS memorable is the part where Paul says in Romans 12:6-8: *We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.*



Prophecy, faith, ministry, teaching, exhorting, giving, leading, compassion/mercy are all gifts of the spirit. Our study looked at these seven gifts as well as several more to make twenty: administration, artistry, discernment, evangelism, exhortation, faith, giving, hospitality, intercession, knowledge, leadership, mercy, vocal music, instrumental music, pastoring, service, skilled craft, teaching, wisdom, and writing. These are not all found in Romans 12 or 1 Corinthians 12, but they are all featured in the Bible.

There is an assessment paper with questions to answer which helps us discern what our spiritual gifts may be. We are all checking out our self-assessments and then comparing them to see if others agree that these are accurate. If anyone is interested, I have extra papers available for you to use. Discovering or acknowledging our gifts may help us better see how God wants us to serve in the world. We have been learning a lot about each other and our faith, and I invite you to join in the exploration!

**No Sunday School on November 20.....**

Since our annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, November 20, between the two worship services, there will be no Sunday school on this day. Confirmation students are encouraged to attend the meeting to learn about the workings of the church/congregation.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!**  
**Sunday, November 20, 2022**  
 9:15 A.M.

The budget for 2023 will be presented for approval, council persons will be elected and other important business will be conducted.

**ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY – NOV. 6.....**



On this day we will be remembering those who have been laid to rest by this congregation during the past year:

- |                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Russell Burns            | William Mohler*  |
| Albert Forster, III      | John Bonslaver   |
| Paul Henry (Hank) Rhoads | Mary Levensgood  |
| Raymond Smith*           | Connie Schittler |

\*Denotes non-member

We invite you to give us the names of friends and family members who have died (during the past year) who you would like remembered with a candle. 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 or email [info@stpaulsdouglassville.com](mailto:info@stpaulsdouglassville.com) to add the name.

**COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE—Tuesday, Nov. 22.....**

There will be a community service of Thanksgiving on Tuesday, November 22, at 7:00 PM here at St. Paul's. St Gabe's and St Pauls UCC will be a part of this service meant as an opportunity to give thanks for God's blessings for our selves and for our community. There will be special music and Pastor Frey will be preaching.



**FIRST COMMUNION CLASS FOR 4TH GRADERS ON NOV. 19.....**



All young people in 4th grade and older who are interested in receiving instruction to receive their First Communion are invited to attend a workshop on Saturday, November 19, from 9 am to 12 noon. The program includes videos, skits, and other activities. First Communion will then be offered on Sunday, November 20, at both services.

Please contact Joy Gerhart if your child is interested in attending (so we can order enough books!). If children are not available to take their First Communion on Nov. 20, they can still attend the workshop!

**FALL CLEAN UP—Saturday, Nov. 5---8:00 A.M.**

Grab your rake and garden gloves. The Property Committee needs your help to clean up the church property. Come when you can; leave when you must. Rain date is Nov. 12.



**SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP.....**



We are collecting gift cards from Redners and Boyers to help 6 families put on a thanksgiving meal for their families. You have been so generous in the past and with the price of food this year, it is even more important that we help those in need.

Thank you for your continued support. You can either put the cards in the collection plate. give them to Susanne or mail them to the church office.

The Social Ministry Committee also thanks those who have taken an angel from the angel tree. Please return your gift (with the angel attached) by Sunday, Nov. 6.

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR -- Friday, Dec. 2, 3:00—8:00 P.M.**

Preparations are now underway for our annual bazaar. Greens, crafts, pies, apple dumplings, chow chow candy, cookies, cocoa bombs, soup and lunch items (eat in or take out) and Santa’s Gift Shop. **We will be accepting donations of your homemade cookies and candy beginning Nov. 27 and throughout the week.**



DONATIONS for Santa’s Gift Shop

Our traditional Bazaar Attic Corner continues to look a little different. We will be doing a Santa’s Gift Shop where kids and adults can do some holiday shopping and wrapping. We are accepting donations of gently used, clean items--Christmas ornaments/decorations, costume jewelry, puzzles, children’s books, and “knickknacks”. Please drop off your donations at the church between November 27 and December 1.

Santa’s Gift Shop will be located in the downstairs fellowship hall and will be open during regular bazaar hours. Please stop by! If you have questions please call Kathy Jablonski at 610-858-7539. We appreciate your support!

**WE ‘RE DECORATING WITH POINSETTIAS ON CHRISTMAS EVE.....**

Use the form printed below if you would like to order a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary. Orders must be placed early to ensure availability. **Try to place your order by Sunday, December 4, but final deadline to order is Sunday, Dec. 11.**

**POINSETTIA ORDER FORM**

Please order \_\_\_\_\_poinsettias (5 blooms +) at \$10.00 per plant.

Amount enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Information for the bulletin: Given to the Glory of God:

\_\_\_\_In memory of

by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_As a gift by \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_



**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: Carole Barbary, Larry Barr, Lauri Barr, David Barr, Cesar Bartra, Amy Bartra, Sarah Bartra, Maeve Bartra, David Bause, Jan Bause, Jennifer Beers, Maureen Benedict, David Bennis, Victoria Bennis, Tyler Bennis, Ryan Bennis. 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, Dale Boughton, Linda Breitenstein, Kyle Centrella, Lee Dierolf, Richard Garrow, Joanne Guss, Arlene Hildebeitel, Kim Koury, Tom Krezanosky, Leo, Shirley Martin, John McCalicher, Matt Miller, Danielle Moyer, Craig Nichols, Carol Pearson, Ray, Patty Salemno, Robert Schoffner, Ellen Sheeler, Joe Smola, Sam Speakman, Gene Stewart, Larry Swavely, Paul Trout, Kitty Varady, Tom & Bobbi Vinchosky, Paul Yacobowsky, family & friends of Gene Boughton, and all others listed below or those we name in our hearts: Carole Barbary, Makayla Becker, Avery Boorse, Michael Burd, Jake Campbell, Darrell, Diane Davis, Barbara DePrefontaine, Ethan, Eve, Heath Fegely, Ron Glaser, Norman Griffen, Anna Gyuris, Sara Hartline, Jevin Heller, Connie Hunter, Terry Johnson, Priscilla Leh, Joanne Marnell, Toby Minner, Ron Mutter, Richard Randolph, Nathan Resch, Lauren Ridge, Gene Schaeffer, Audrey Serrian, John Shaner, 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.



- |       |  |       |   |
|-------|--|-------|---|
| 11/1  | Brett Simmons  | 11/17 | Amelia Boyd   |
| 11/3  | Jeanette Forster<br>Ryan Musselman   |       | Emily Gaskins<br>Blake Grim   |
| 11/4  | Alexander Kutz<br>Elisabeth Yoder<br>Jamison Young                           |       | Barbara Kunkel<br>Jim Sarro   |
| 11/5  | Angela Houck<br>Lee Walley   | 11/18 | Matthew Fusco<br>Henry Szajek   |
| 11/6  | Kiley Davidheiser  | 11/20 | Dominick DeNardo<br>Aubrey Garman<br>Lauren Musetti                               |
| 11/7  | Brynn Detwiler<br>Leah Detwiler<br>Mary Ellen Hoffert<br>Chelsea Knabb       | 11/22 | Elizabeth Haring<br>Christopher Lynagh<br>Michael McCormick<br>William Stalnecker |
| 11/8  | Jeff Angstadt<br>Jerry MacMullin   | 11/23 | Diane Stauffer  |
| 11/9  | Fred Gaskins<br>Alexander Prizer   | 11/24 | Sean Kochert<br>Jeane Serrian   |
| 11/10 | Noah Charlton  | 11/25 | Betty High  |
| 11/11 | Thomas Beil<br>Kendra Day<br>Letisha Leahy<br>Donald Levengood<br>Sean Sonon | 11/26 | Meridith Gaskins<br>Raegan Ruotolo  |
| 11/12 | Torie Shaffer  | 11/27 | Elena Eidell<br>Jenna Hendricks   |
| 11/13 | Piper Braun<br>Brian Kupp  | 11/28 | Craig Yambor  |
| 11/14 | Nathan Haring  | 11/29 | Jacob Beil<br>Austin Bonetz<br>Kynlee Coyle<br>Stephanie Szajek                   |
| 11/15 | Kenneth Adams  | 11/30 | Joyce Drey<br>Harold Grim<br>Michael Shingle                                      |
| 11/16 | Sandra Berger<br>Christian Cicala  |       |   |

*Dear St. Paul's Congregation,*

*We would like to thank you for your generous donations of school supplies to the Daniel Boone Area Middle School. Your continued support of our students is greatly appreciated.*

*Sincerely,*

*DBAMS Faculty & Staff*



.....TO

John & Claudia McCalicher	11/5	45 yrs.
Barry & Susanne Leier	11/8	53 yrs.
Gary & Cindy Weidner	11/12	34 yrs.
Al & Lorrie Monroe	11/13	40 yrs.
John & Tara Bologa	11/17	32 yrs.
Tristan & Lisa Smyth	11/18	5 yrs.
Matthew & Anna Cleaver	11/19	1 yr.
John & Pam Wolfe	11/20	46 yrs.
Barry & Vicci Eidell	11/22	47 yrs.
Mark & Cathy Hammond	11/23	9 yrs.
Brad & Mindy Haring	11/24	32 yrs.
Lou & Valerie Day	11/25	22 yrs.
Tom & Debbie Longstaff	11/26	17 yrs.

## Remember this?

### .....TURKEY SUPPERS

St. Paul's UCC is celebrating 100 years of Turkey Suppers by bringing back the traditional event on November 5, 2022, 3 to 7 PM. It will include the dine-in option and the take-out dinners. In the dining room, soup and dessert will be served at the table. The main course will be buffet and there will be youth to help anyone with mobility concerns.

These dinners and other meals were started as our joint congregations worked to rebuild the Union Church after the tornado destroyed the church in 1922. That history of community and fellowship is very special. St. Paul's UCC invites you to share stories, pictures, or other historical information from our Lutheran family. If you or your family had a special role in these events, please reach out to Marianne Reinert, 610-689-4154 or [mmrdbr@aol.com](mailto:mmrdbr@aol.com). If you can come out to the dinner, you can also share it then.

# SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

## What's happening with Growing Young?

*Growing Young is an initiative lived out in the NEPSynod, congregations, and individuals' ministry. Growing Young was our synod assembly theme in 2021, but it is not a once-and-done theme. Growing Young is something we strive to accomplish together, continually.*

Congregations throughout our synod have been diving deep into the journey of Growing Young. Some are just beginning and exploring the concept whereas others are already incorporating it within their congregation and even helping beginners to gain the whole Growing Young experience. In case you are new to Growing Young, Growing Young is a movement in the NEPA Synod and throughout the greater ELCA and is based on a book of the same name. The book studied churches of all sizes, denominations, and locations throughout the country that are maintaining and engaging youth and young adults in their congregations. What does Growing Young really look like though?

Growing Young will look different for every congregation and the journey to get there will not be the same. Devoting time and commitment to the 6 core characteristics is the only way for your congregation to work towards a Growing Young outcome. These commitments orbit around a Jesus-centered community and help us truly become the church. Now is the time to pass down leadership and pastoral roles to those eager to assist and prioritize youth & young families everywhere. Now is the time to focus on warm relationships and empathize with today's youth. Now is the time to be the best neighbor and share Jesus' message seriously.

Is your congregation ready to Grow Young? Resources are available to help guide your community to the Growing Young mindset. For more information, visit [godslove.org/growingyoung](http://godslove.org/growingyoung) or by reaching out to the Growing Young coordinator, Stacey Burke at [stacey@nepssynod.org](mailto:stacey@nepssynod.org) or at 610-266-5101 ext. 10.

## Let's Grow Young together!

# COMING UP:

Nov. 5: WeLove

Nov. 12: Faith Formation Saturdays

Nov. 14-15: Bishop Conference

"GIVE THANKS TO  
THE LORD, FOR  
GOD IS GOOD;  
GOD'S LOVE  
ENDURES  
FOREVER."  
1 CHRONICLES 16:34



*Visit us:*  
<http://www.Godslove.org/>

JUNE  
1-3



SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2023

↑ ↓  
SAVE THE DATE



*Faith in Action*

**Hope's Table**

A Synodically Authorized  
Worshipping Community in  
Reading, where the community  
comes together to eat, worship,  
and build relationships. A  
community fostered in the  
poorest neighborhood of the  
city. It all started as a small  
gathering but has grown into a  
comfortable place for people  
who wouldn't otherwise feel  
comfortable within the walls of  
a church.

Tuesdays 5:30PM  
601 N Front St  
Reading PA  
Pastor Mary Wolfe

## November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> Quilting 2 PM—TOPS 2 PM—Knit & crochet	<b>2</b> 10 AM—Bible Study	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10 AM—Bible Study	<b>5</b> 8 AM—Fall clean-up 6 PM—Holy Comm
<b>6</b> 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—Sun. School 9:30 AM—Finance	<b>7</b> 10 AM—Bible Study 7 PM—Christian Ed.	<b>8</b> Quilting 9 AM—Knit & crochet	<b>9</b> 10 AM—Bible Study 7 PM—Council	<b>10</b> Amity Friendship Circle bus trip 6 PM—T3	<b>11</b> 10 AM—Bible Study	<b>12</b> Rain date for Fall clean-up 6 PM—Holy Comm
<b>13</b> 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—Sun. School	<b>14</b> 10 AM—Bible Study 6:30—CDC 7 PM—Pastoral Care	<b>15</b> Quilting 2 PM—TOPS 2 PM—Knit & crochet	<b>16</b> 10 AM—Bible Study	<b>17</b> 9:30 AM—Social Min.	<b>18</b> 10 AM—Bible Study	<b>19</b> 9—noon—First Communion class 7:30 AM—Property 6 PM—Holy Comm
<b>20</b> 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—Annual mtg. <u>No Sunday School</u>	<b>21</b> 10 AM—Bible Study	<b>22</b> Quilting 9 AM—Knit & crochet 2 PM—TOPS 7 PM—Community Thanksgiving worship	<b>23</b> 10 AM—Bible Study	<b>24 Thanksgiving</b> 	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6 PM—Holy Comm
<b>27</b> 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm 9:15—Sun. School	<b>28</b> 10 AM—Bible Study	<b>29</b> Quilting 2 PM—TOPS 2 PM—Knit & crochet	<b>30</b> 10 AM—Bible Study			