



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

OCTOBER, 2022



(Jesus taught) Then the Son of Man will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me...truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:34-36, 40)

It is easy to be overwhelmed by the news of the massive refugee crisis in Ukraine propelled by the horrific war instigated by Russia. It doesn't take much imagination to understand the anxiety and suffering happening in the population centers being shelled without regard to civilian casualties. It also doesn't take much imagination to picture what a monumental humanitarian crisis this is and how it will worsen with the onset of winter.

You can make a direct and substantial difference in this crisis by participating in the Southeast Berks Ministerium Crop Walk. Church World Service, whose cross-denomination ministries include, the Crop Walk, Blanket Sunday, health kits (which Sunday school kids just assembled on Rally Day), 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 \$39 million dollars. Church World Service has established refugee services in Moldova, itself one of the poorest countries in Europe, to provide assistance to displaced persons from Ukraine. They are drawing on resources such as blankets and health kits already in their inventory to meet the urgent needs and will have to replenish these resources as the crisis continues.

We have the capacity to provide meaningful assistance to the people of Ukraine. Keep Ukrainians and all displaced people around the world in your prayers and consider supporting Church World Service through the Crop Walk.

Pastor Frey

CROP Walk October 16th in Birdsboro

Our community *CROP Walk* is taking place in Birdsboro on October 16th at 1:30 PM beginning at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Money raised from our walk will directly benefit refugee services provided to Ukrainians 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 simply 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.

You can sign up for the Crop Walk or sponsor a walker at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/st-pauls-lutheran-church-2>



FROM THE PARISH RECORDS....

Donations given in memory of **Rusty High** by—
Calvin & Ellen Sheeler—Memorial Fund
JoAnne Merkel—Memorial Fund
Jan Schell—Agape Fund

--YTD Giving thru August 2022--				
	<u>Jan.-Aug. 2021</u>	<u>Jan-Aug. 2022</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>% chg.</u>
Offerings	\$ 233,704	\$ 244,160	10,456	4.47
Vision 2020 Contr.	36,005	35,324	-681	-1.89
Total Giving	\$ 269,709	\$ 279,484	9,775	3.49

THOUGHTS.....by Joy Gerhart

I like to play a game I call “What does one have to do with the other?” We often play this game in Bible Study because it has to do with “What does the Old Testament lesson have to do with the appointed Gospel lesson for a Sunday?” (I hope I haven’t lost you already. I know, another Bible-related piece! Stay tuned, it gets even better.)

The Old and New Testament readings are chosen to try to connect with each other, but sometimes it is hard to find the connection. BUT, maybe you remember the reading of the Lost Coin and the Lost Sheep and that it was paired with Moses with God seeing the golden calf the people created. So, what do those have in common? Could it be that Moses’ people are lost as the sheep and need to be reunited with their shepherd (God)? Or that there was murmuring among the people in the wilderness as there was murmuring among the Pharisees and scribes that Jesus spent time with tax collectors and sinners? Or that Moses tried to curb God’s wrath against the disobedient people as Jesus tried to change the minds and hearts of the Pharisees and scribes? Bible study can be fun because it can really make us think, and it can draw us closer to God.

Some Bible passages are very hard to deal with, sometimes because the messages and meanings are too clear. At the time of this writing, I have dealt with two passages from Amos in our Old Testament Bible study, which you have heard in church (or online) and very possibly let float right over your head. A scholar commented that “if we like Amos, we probably don’t understand his message.” WHY? It is because though Amos was written a very long time ago, his words are as true then as they are to us today. The gospels that Amos 6 and 8 are paired with deal with riches and justice. These are certainly current issues for us all (or should be). Amos speaks in Chapter 8 about trampling on the needy and bringing ruin to the poor. He speaks to the rich in Chapter 6 about how they are not “grieved over the ruin of Joseph” (the people of Israel and Judah). In 8:4, Amos proclaims “Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory, and lounge on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the stall.” I feel like he is pointing at me because I sleep on a comfortable bed and not on the floor like the poor people of his time. I eat very well and can have all the meat I want, while poor people of Amos’ time lived on grains, vegetables and fruit, and only the rich had meat, and even fine meat like veal and lamb. I don’t think we intentionally trample on the needy, but tend to fill our minds with our own needs and our own jobs and families. We turn away when we hear about immigrants struggling to find a better life, people in our country who have to decide to eat or buy their medication, the homeless who have nowhere to go, the people who have been made homeless by natural disasters, . . .

Many of the Old Testament prophets—Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah and others—try to ruffle the feathers of the ancient people of Israel because they have been disobedient to God’s will and dishonest or apathetic in their dealings with others. The rich keep getting richer and don’t seem to care about the poor. This is clearly not God’s intention for creation. Those who are blessed are to share their blessings with others. Israel was called to be a blessing and example to others. We may not steal, lie or cheat, but do we work for justice for others? And how do we do that? We can try to serve our neighbor in small ways—responding to collections and projects the church and community organize. Perhaps we can help in even larger ways than I know about. This is just a message to urge us not to be too comfortable or complacent. God calls us to be agents of justice. God calls us to listen. (Maybe even listen

more carefully to the Old Testament lessons.) God calls us to care and act. Amos tells us that God says:

“Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good and establish justice in the gate. . . . Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” Amos 5:14-15a, 24
We are saved by God’s grace but cannot sit in complacency.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HAPPENINGS.....

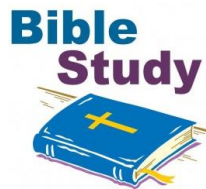
Bible Introduction and Presentation

We were very excited to have 12 children attend our Bible introduction class on Sunday, September 18. We learned how to find the New Testament, what kinds of groupings of books were in the Bible, and that Deuteronomy, a favorite book of some, is in the Old Testament (that’s a slightly private joke). Those attending on September 18 and receiving their Bibles from their parents on September 25 were:

Kylie and Taylor Beaver	Nolan Houck
Charlotte Beil	Wesley Millard
Grant Cappellano	Aeson Poux
Elena Eidell	William Ridge
Calla Eisenhard	Savannah and Sydney Walter

Weekday Bible Study

Weekday Bible study continues on Zoom Mondays at 10:00 am on the upcoming Old Testament lesson led by Joy Gerhart (873 0089 2165 Passcode 067059), Wednesdays on Zoom and online at 10:00 am on the Gospel of John led by Pastor Frey (219 384 065 Password st.pauls), and Fridays on Zoom at 10:00 am on the upcoming Gospel lesson led by Pastor Frey (219 384 065 Password: st.pauls). The Wednesday Bible study will soon be concluding the Gospel of John and moving on to a new Bible book, possibly Acts.



Rally Day Thanks

Thank you to all who made our indoor Rally Day experience fun and rewarding. We learned about the treasure we have in Jesus and worked hard to create 51 hygiene kits which have been delivered to the CWS Warehouse in New Windsor, Maryland. We thank Thrivent for providing us with a grant to purchase supplies, and we thank all those who gave extra supplies on their own.



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

The budget for 2023 will be presented for approval and other important business will be conducted.

ALL SAINTS’ SUNDAY – NOV. 6.....

We will be placing lit votive candles in front of the church in memory of those who have died over the previous year (since November 1, 2021) and invite you to give us the names of friends and family members who have died (during the past year) who you would like remembered in this way. These people do not have to have been members of St. Paul’s. We will place a candle in their memory and have a tribute to them during the service. Please call the church office (610) 385-6616 or email info@stpaulsdouglassville.com to add the name.



ANGEL GIVING TREE.....

Berks County Pretrial Services (BCPS), Director of Development, Vanessa Starr, will be visiting our congregation on Sunday, October 2, 2022. Vanessa will visit at the beginning of both Services to personally thank us for our Advent Angel Giving Tree where for the past three years, you have provided 3-4 gifts for 50 children of incarcerated individuals of Reading, PA. Vanessa will also present an overview of their services in helping rehabilitate individuals and assist them back into the community. Thanks in advance for welcoming Vanessa.

Help Support the Angel Giving Tree

Social Ministry Committee will again be placing our Advent Angel Giving Tree in the Narthex in early October. We are collecting gifts for the third year to help children of incarcerated individuals celebrate the season! Please consider donating a gift! Select an angel, purchase the gift, secure the angel to the wrapped gift bow and place it under the tree. Then take a new angel from the basket of angels and place on the tree. A Social Ministry member will be there to assist you before and after each Service. We ask that all gifts be placed under the tree by Sunday, November 6, 2022.



OR, should you be attending Services virtually, please email bakunkel1946@ptd.net or call Jane Kinder 610-385-6244 or Barbara Kunkel 609-731-4368, to let us know that you wish to participate. One of our Social Ministry members will then call you to review the gifts available for purchase. We will arrange pickup from your front door at a convenient date or you can drop the gift off to St. Paul's before Sunday, November 6, 2022. **Thank You Very Much!!**

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: Kenneth Adams, Richard Adams, Carter Ahles, Kenneth Albright, Beverly Albright, Madison Albright, Kennedy Albright, Jackson Albright, McKinley Albright, David Alexander, Rebecca Alford, Jeff Angstadt, Sheila Angstadt. 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, Gerald Breitenstein, Linda Breitenstein, Katie Cody, Lee Dierolf, Richard Garrow, Arlene Hildebeitel, Kim Koury, Tom Krezanosky, Leo, Shirley Martin, John McCalicher, Danielle Moyer, Craig Nichols, Carol Pearson, Robert Schoffner, Ellen Sheeler, Joe Smola, Gene Stewart, Tom & Bobbi Vinchosky, family and friends of Jean Korf, Verna Habecker Mary Levengood, Bobbie Oxenford, 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.



THANK YOU...THANK YOU....THANK YOU....

Dear Congregation of St. Paul's:

A big thank you for your gift to Mission Trip Birdsboro & Beyond. That gift will go a long way in supplying the mission with tools and supplies for projects in our community. The mission thanks you for your continuing support of our combined efforts in helping our community and those in need.

Blessings,

Lisa Mullen on behalf of MTBB 2022

*Happy
Birthday!*

10/1	Briella Eisenhard Everett Frey Justin Frey	10/15	Brian Gougler Elisha Pitman Calvin Sim
10/2	Tara Bologna Taylor Davidheiser Debra McCoy	10/16	Geraldine Trauger Karen Marquette Katie Sowers
10/3	Kristine DePrefontaine Peggy Emery Myro Roman Wendi Strain	10/17	Alexander Stanley Lux Topakbashian Evan Miller Thomas Morrow
10/4	Isaac Cope Rich Saylor	10/18	Cheryl Overly
10/6	Pat McClafferty Lisa Smyth Judy Trout Cooper Walt Marian Zaffary	10/19	Katelin Hendricks
10/7	Owen Berger Clara Britton Jennie Clouser Carolyn DiSandro	10/21	Beatrice Mohr
10/8	Jack Cooke Kaitlyn Venn	10/22	Vivienne Poux Karen Schreier
10/9	Zachary Freitag Matthew Poole	10/23	Paul Muschick Paul Reber
10/10	David Lau	10/24	Russ Hartline Barbara Keim John Schroeder Len Trauger
10/12	Eli Royer Nathan Vernon	10/25	Warren Greth Frank Jablonski
10/13	Carole Barbary	10/27	Barry Oxenford Lauren Sarro
10/14	JoAnne Merkel Kitty Varady Cooper Vernon	10/28	Devin Raneiri Sally Rhoads Mary Rowe Emma Serrian
		10/29	Eleanor Yost
		10/31	Barry Eidell



Brandon & Denise Price	10/2	12 yrs.
Brian & Rebecca Miller	10/4	25 yrs.
Tim & Rebecca Oister	10/9	13 yrs.
Evan & Jenna Dominick	10/11	14 yrs.
Jeffrey & Katie Sowers	10/11	8 yrs.
Brian & Katelyn Kupp	10/12	3 yrs.
Gerald & Suzanne Kupp	10/13	38 yrs.
Cheryl Overly & Ann Myers	10/15	6 yrs.
Todd & Elizabeth Mosteller	10/16	18 yrs.
Larry & Lauri Barr	10/19	37 yrs.
Andrew & Rachel Weiler	10/24	7 yrs.
David & Sue Childs	10/27	32 yrs.
Guy & Marianne Graefe	10/28	44 yrs.



GENTLY USED HANDBAG SALE

At St. Paul's UCC, Amityville
Saturday, Oct. 1 9:00 A.M.—1:00 P.M.

Also includes craft vendors selling their goods, shoo fly pies, quarts of turkey soup, and community fellowship. Vendors are welcome, no cost. For more information please go to:
Stpaulsuccamity.org/upcomingevents/handbag&craftsale



SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS TO JENNIE CLOUSER WHO WILL CELEBRATE HER 100TH BIRTHDAY ON OCTOBER 7.

Greetings may be sent to her—2461 E. High St., F-14,
Pottstown, PA 19464-7701

SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

🔍 What's happening in NEPA Synod? ✕

- Bishop Conference 2022...
- Synod Assembly 2023...
- Going Beyond...
- Stronger Together...
- Growing Young...
- Learning Ministries Day 23...

<http://> 

Visit Godslove.org for up-to-date happenings around the synod



Synod Assembly

GOING BEYOND 2023

GO BEYOND WITH US IN-PERSON!!

KALAHARI POCONOS

JUNE 1-3 2023

WORSHIP Play CONNECT Lead

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Presents:

BISHOP'S CONFERENCE 2022

Featuring

Center for Congregational Health

November 14 & 15
Americus Hotel
555 Hamilton St
Allentown, PA



* 2023 Update on Portico Health Rates & Plan Changes

ELCA-Primary health contribution baseline rate will increase 3%, the same rate increase as last year, which was the lowest in eight years. The 3% increase also applies to sponsored members receiving the ELCA Medicare-Primary health benefit Standard option. ELCA-Primary Gold+ option deductibles will increase to \$1,500 for member only, \$2,250 for member and child(ren) and \$3,000 for member and spouse or member, spouse, and child(ren). Coinsurance, out-of-pocket limits and prescription drug cost-share will not change.

* Prepare for 2023 Annual Enrollment

As you prepare to make selections in October, keep these things in mind: Sponsoring employers (congregations and organizations) will select the option they will offer their employees Oct. 3-14. Your registered EmployerLink user can access the 2023 Decision Guide and their Custom Comparison Report to help determine 2023 costs and options. Note: any organization that does not make a selection will be assigned Silver+ (A) to offer their plan members the ability to choose the coverage that works best for them. Sponsored members, watch for an email from Portico with specific information about 2023 Annual Enrollment, including when your selection period will be open.



Join us!

LEARNING MINISTRIES DAY

January 28, 2023

Save the Date!



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

October 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—Sun. School</p>	<p>3 10 AM—Bible Study 7 PM—Christian Ed.</p>	<p>4 Quilting 2 PM—TOPS 2 PM—Knit & crochet</p>	<p>5 10 AM—Bible Study</p>	<p>6 Noon—Amity Fr. Circle 5 & 6 PM—Chimes rehearsal 7—Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>7 10 AM—Bible Study</p>	<p>1 6 PM—Holy Comm</p> <hr/> <p>8 6 PM—Holy Comm</p>
<p>9 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—Sun. School 9:30--Finance</p>	<p>10 11-2 PM--Volunteer Fair 6:30--CDC 7 PM—Pastoral Care</p>	<p>11 Quilting 9 AM—Knit & crochet 2 PM--TOPS</p>	<p>12 10 AM—Bible Study 7 PM--Council</p>	<p>13 5 & 6 PM—Chimes rehearsal 7—Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>14 10 AM—Bible Study</p>	<p>15 7:30 AM--Property 6 PM—Holy Comm</p>
<p>16 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—Sun. School 1:30 PM—CROP Walk</p>	<p>17 10 AM—Bible Study</p>	<p>18 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS 2 PM—Knit & crochet</p>	<p>19 10 AM—Bible Study</p>	<p>20 9:30 AM—Social Min. 7—Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>21 10 AM—Bible Study</p>	<p>22 6 PM—Holy Comm</p>
<p>23 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—Sun. School</p>	<p>24 10 AM—Bible Study</p>	<p>25 Quilting 9 AM—Knit & crochet 2 PM--TOPS</p>	<p>26 10 AM—Bible Study 7 PM—Worship & Music</p>	<p>27 7—Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>28 10 AM—Bible Study</p>	<p>29 6 PM—Holy Comm</p>
<p>30 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—Sun. School</p>	<p>31 10 AM—Bible Study</p>					