



**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, 2022**

**IT'S TIME.....**

*For God says, 'At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.'*  
*See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! (2 Corinthians 6:2)*

It has been almost two and a half years since the pandemic began. Two and a half years of changes and challenges, adjustments and preventative measures, virtual this and remote that. Through the worst of the virus our church community remained connected via livestreamed worship and online meetings and gatherings. As vaccines and better treatments for the virus became available, the church's ability to reduce restrictions and expand our interaction increased. Our hearts were made glad.

A large percentage of the worshipping community at St Paul's has returned to regular in person worship. But for others the return to worship *in-building* has been delayed. There are reasons, of course. Chronic health conditions for themselves or family members may require extended vigilance for some. But others have told me that they intend to return but just haven't gotten back into the routine. I appreciate their honesty. I certainly understand the difficulty of restoring a practice you have gotten away from, but if this describes you, allow me to gently encourage you with these words, "It's time."

Christian community is "incarnational" (*In-the-fleshed*). God became *enfleshed* in Jesus and the baptized remain the body of Christ in the

world. As Christ's body we continue the *enfleshed* presence of Jesus where two or three are gathered in his name. Being physically present is essential to living out our identity as Christ's body, our primary Christian identity. Christianity is rooted in Christ present in our gathered community.

There has been discussion among my pastoral colleagues concerning whether livestreaming worship services is still a good idea. Some have suggested that livestreaming may facilitate members not returning to in person worship and should possibly be discontinued.

While I share the concern, but I am not inclined to suggest discontinuing livestreaming with its benefits, not to mention sacrifice all the work volunteers have put into it. When we began the livestream and invested significant resources in it we did so with the understanding that the time would come when the livestream would take its appropriate place as an option for people to stay connected to worship when in person attendance is not possible. For most that time is now.

After Labor Day the full liturgy of worship will be restored, the choir will be back, and Sunday School will resume. Now is a perfect time to reconnect with your church family and reestablish the habit of regular worship with your community of Christ.

*Now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation! It's time.*

--Pastor Frey



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

<b>--YTD Giving thru July 2022--</b>				
	<u>Jan.-July 2021</u>	<u>Jan.-July 2022</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>% chg.</u>
Offerings	\$ 203,438	\$ 220,965	17,527	8.62
Vision 2020 Contr.	31,975	31,597	-378	-1.18
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 235,413</b>	<b>\$ 252,562</b>	<b>17,149</b>	<b>6.79</b>

## THOUGHTS ON MEMORIES

by Joy Gerhart



I can't help but be a little nostalgic right now. I am anticipating my 50<sup>th</sup> reunion which at the time of writing is 9 days away. Many of you know I'm from upstate New York, (though some call it western New York), near Rochester, and I am excited to see my brother and some old school friends. Reminiscing is often fun, especially with good friends and family. It's amazing how long-term memories last while our short-term memory skills tend to weaken with age.

What does any of this mean for us and our faith? Some of us remember hearing Bible stories as a kid as well as learning about God and God's actions in the Bible in Sunday school class. I still remember—and this is weird—seeing a picture in a coloring book that my grandmother had of King Balak (of Moab) and Balaam (a prophet), actually of Balaam and his donkey." WHAAAAAT?" you say. Who are they? In Numbers 22, Balaam is called by Balak to go to curse Israel. God tells Balaam NOT to curse Israel. God sets an angel in Balaam's way and actually lets his donkey talk to him after he is beaten by Balaam. We don't teach this story in Sunday School any more—we barely hit on the important stories! I mention this only because I am so surprised that I remembered. For years I thought I made the story up because it was so strange. What do you remember about what you learned from the Bible? Did you read the Bible to your children? Do you read the Bible to your grandchildren? Are Bible stories important to you? What is most important to you about the Bible?

Continuing to recount how odd I was, I taught 4<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday school when I was in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade. (Well, maybe not that strange—my brother taught 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.) We had a wonderful textbook that we used called "The Promises of God." The thing that was so great about it was that it gave an overview of the whole flow of history in the Bible from Adam and Eve to Jesus through to the Acts of the Apostles. (I never did much with Acts because that would have been in the summer.) What a wonderful gift to teach from that book —because you learn and retain more when you teach—and that overview helped me through my religion courses in college and seminary. You could call it biblical history, or I like to call it the salvation story. From the beginning of creation, God has been working to make us the people we were

intended to be—faithful, loving, forgiving people—a community that cares for each other and honors God above all else. It sounds so easy. But before you turn a couple pages in the Bible, Adam and Eve have already turned away from obeying God —and "the rest is history." Jealousy, death, rivalry, deceit, enslavement, liberation, turning away, captivity, return, rebuilding, hope in the birth of the Messiah... What do you remember? Is it the stories or specific details or is it how learning these things formed you into who you are? I have often heard "faith is not taught, but caught." Who did you catch your faith from? Is your faith contagious? Have you passed on your faith on others? We are so concerned about keeping healthy and free of the corona virus, as we should be. But maybe we should think about contaminating the world with the faith "germ" and make a positive impression, as we remember Jesus our Lord and how he taught us to love, and forgive, and share, and fight for justice, and live as we were created to live from the very beginning.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS.....

### Rally Day, September 11



Rally Day is one event we did not sacrifice during the pandemic and have had fun celebrating each year outside. On Sunday, September 11, at 9:15 am we plan to hold a treasure hunt (a little connection with our VBS treasure theme this summer) and do a service project at the end of the hour (to connect with the God's Work Our Hands theme). If the weather permits, we will meet outside near the basketball hoop and receive instructions for the treasure hunt. If the weather is not good, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall and move down to the large room downstairs for the hunt. The service project will be conducted in the Fellowship Hall. We will be making Health/hygiene kits again like we did on Palm Sunday since the kids seemed to enjoy this, and the kits are always needed for disasters and people in need. All are welcome!!! Bring friends. The more the merrier!

## SCS News

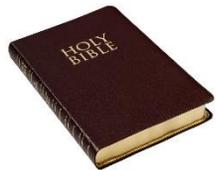
Sunday Church School will begin on September 18 at 9:15 am for a new school year. Most of the classes, locations, and teachers will be the same as last year. (The only room changes are for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation classes. There will be directional signs.) We would appreciate having parents fill out registration sheets for their children for emergency purposes. (They will be available in the Fellowship Hall.) Our Sunday school lessons match the readings we hear in worship, so those who go to Sunday School and church can really understand the message of the lessons. If you have any questions, please call Joy Gerhart.

## Manna and Mercy

The Adult Sunday School class will unlock the secrets to God interaction with and plan for the entire universe and identify your place in God's mission. Seriously...this is what we are going to do. I would be shocked if the entire congregation didn't show up for this! Over 16 weeks the adult class will meet with me (Pastor) in the Church Library at 9:15 AM on Sunday mornings and learn how to understand the Biblical story by reading it through the lens of Jesus Christ and the themes of Manna and Mercy. Participants will receive a copy of the book by Daniel Erlander *Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe*.

## Bible introduction

We give Bibles to children in Grade 3 (and older) to help the parents fulfill their vow made at baptism to put the scriptures in their child's hands. We encourage you to attend the Bible Introduction workshop to learn more about the Bible. Children in grades 4 and up who have not received a Bible from the church are also welcome to come for the introductory workshop and participate in the presentation. Our workshop—Bible Introduction class—will meet on September 11 in the Fellowship Hall starting with pizza at 11:30 am and class at 12:00. Then we will ask parents to take a Bible home, write in it and highlight meaningful passages. The Bible presentation will be held on Sunday, September 25 at either service. Please sign up ahead of time by contacting Joy Gerhart at [jgerhart@stpaulsdouglassville.com](mailto:jgerhart@stpaulsdouglassville.com) or by calling 610-385-6616.



## Adult Bible Studies

Adult Bible studies will continue this fall: Mondays at 10:00 am on the upcoming Old Testament lessons led by Joy Gerhart. Online on zoom: 873 0089 2165, passcode 067059. Wednesdays on the Gospel of John and Fridays on the upcoming Gospel lesson for Sunday, both at 10:00 am, both online but Wednesday is also in person in the Fellowship Hall. Zoom link is 219 384 065 with the password st.pauls.

Pastor Frey will also plan to offer an evening Bible study once a month.

## First Communion

Children in grades 4 and up are invited to attend the workshop we will hold in November around Thanksgiving for First Holy Communion instruction. There will be more information forthcoming.



## YOUTH NEWS.....



Surveys have been sent out to see what interests our youth have in activities and also to see which groupings of grades might be most desired. If you have not received a survey and want one, please ask Joy. We hope to have an event at the end of September. If you have any interest in helping with planning or chaperoning youth events, please contact Joy Gerhart.

## WOMEN'S GROUP.....

We have been surveying some women, many who have attended pre-pandemic women's events and are working on planning monthly events for the year. The majority of votes are suggesting we meet in the afternoon, which unfortunately serves the needs for those of us who can't or don't drive comfortably at night, but not those who work during the day. We will try to have an event in September, but it has not yet been scheduled.



**CROP Walk October 16<sup>th</sup> in Birdsboro**

You can make a direct and substantial difference in the lives of people in your community and around the world 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 relief services around the world. A large percentage of CWS's work centers on helping displaced persons, more than 58% of their total budget. Last year that amounted to over \$39 million dollars. Church World Service and other humanitarian organizations are already working with refugees from Afghanistan and the Ukraine 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 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM beginning at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.*** Money raised from our walk will directly benefit refugees 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 must not remain 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.

**IT'S TIME FOR THE OLEY FAIR.....**

The fair is again seeking the help of volunteers to help serve food. Our church has been assigned to work on Friday, September 16, from 9:00—4:30 P.M. Those who have helped previously have been sent a link to sign up or you can sign up through the church office. Shifts can be split, but please sign up only ONE name for the slot.

Additional reminders:

- NO OPEN TOED SHOES MAY BE WORN
- Purses/bags cannot be carried to serving positions
- Volunteers may bring their own beverage containers but they must have lids

A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Sign up by September 8 since after that date the fair will try to fill in the slots with other groups.

Parking passes are available.

The more volunteers we have, the more money our church receives from the Fair Association.



**Mark your calendar! The next Blood Drive** is on Monday, September 19, from noon—7:00 P.M. here at St. Paul's. Online registration is available at [www.GIVEaPINT.org](http://www.GIVEaPINT.org). Use sponsor code 2050 or contact Rhonda Maloney at 610-858-9236.

**CHOW-CHOW IS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE**  
\$5.00 pint/\$10.00 quart

**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: Ken Yoder, Elisabeth Yoder, Payton Yoder, Mason Yoder, Lindsey Yoder, Eleanor Yost, Jamison Young, Olivia Yuhasz, Marian Zaffary, David Zepp, Lynne Zepp, Weston Zepp. 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, Sara Hartline, Arlene Hildebeitel, Kasper, Daniel, Kim Koury, Priscilla Leh, Mary Levengood, Toby Minner, Craig Nichols, Gross Painter, Carol Pearson, Nathan Resch, Rachel & Patrick Schneider, Robert Schoffner, Sue Trout, Tom & Bobbi Vinchosky, Sarah Weider, Shelly Wilson, family and friends of Bobbie Oxenford, Rusty High, Jill Nailon, 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.

**LAST CALL FOR BUS TRIP TO AMERICAN MUSIC THEATER.....**

Just a few seats remaining to see their Christmas show on Thursday, November 10. Tickets are \$85 (show, bus, and lunch buffet at Yoder's Restaurant included). Call Jan Schell at 610-779-7409.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

- |      |   |      |   |
|------|---|------|---|
| 9/2  | Carol DeLong<br>Bradley Schittler<br>Isabelle Yetter          | 9/18 | Wesley Leck<br>Ashleigh Weidner<br>Brittany Weidner                               |
| 9/3  | Donna Saylor<br>Darlene Schoenly                              | 9/19 | Arlene Wolfgang<br>Tina Hackett<br>Cheryl Meade                                   |
| 9/4  | Carol Gross<br>Jane Kinder                                    | 9/20 | Alexandra Chroscinski<br>Herb Schoenly<br>Charles Weiser                          |
| 9/5  | Katie Sarro   | 9/21 | Hadlynn Berzins<br>Danielle Walt  |
| 9/7  | Antonia Gross   | 9/22 | Sherryl Kasprzewski<br>Matthew Mueller<br>Brandon Price                           |
| 9/8  | Brooke Eidell<br>Pat Roland<br>Weston Zepp                    | 9/23 | Kevin Frankenfield<br>Audrey LeGrand<br>Colin Mooney<br>Eileen Swavely            |
| 9/9  | David Prizer<br>Courtney Rhoads<br>Claude Shaner              | 9/24 | Logan Day<br>Judy Grabowicz<br>Alexander Musetti<br>Noah Tindall<br>Benjamin West |
| 9/10 | Jessica Smith<br>Matthew Wegman                               | 9/25 | Robyn Berger<br>Keith Forster   |
| 9/11 | Mason Betts<br>Elizabeth Burns                                | 9/26 | Gerald Kupp<br>Hunter Moyer   |
| 9/12 | Wendy Hasara<br>Dori Shingle<br>Joel Steever                  | 9/27 | Suzanne Kupp<br>Denise Price  |
| 9/13 | David Alexander<br>Sandra Hart<br>Bill Kutz<br>Brandon Strain | 9/28 | Robin Rohrbach<br>Keith Royer<br>John L. Serrian, Jr., MD                         |
| 9/14 | Jennifer Sowers<br>David Stauffer                             | 9/29 | Bruce Cope<br>Michele Fisher<br>William Musetti<br>Zachary Waring                 |
| 9/15 | Kendall Freitag<br>Todd Mosteller<br>Cynthia Yetter           |      |   |
| 9/16 | Anna Cleaver<br>LuAnne Martin                                 |      |   |
| 9/17 | Marylynne Endy<br>Patrick Magner                              |      |   |
| 9/18 | Dena Gephart  |      |   |



.....TO

Kristopher & Jennifer Moyer	9/1	16 yrs.
Tim & Sharon Loscig	9/3	23 yrs.
John & Fawn Schroeder	9/3	45 yrs.
Richard & Rita Christman	9/5	58 yrs.
Warren & Donna Saylor	9/6	53 yrs.
Laine & Debbie Kasdras	9/7	26 yrs.
Zachary & Carey Coyle	9/8	15 yrs.
Michael & Kendra Day	9/12	8 yrs.
Ryan & Jen Davidheiser	9/15	15 yrs.
Robin & Sandi Levengood	9/16	27 yrs.
Brian & Courtney Gougler	9/18	18 yrs.
Richard & Sue Kucharik	9/18	23 yrs.
Franklin & Mariann Brown	9/20	42 yrs.
Rich & Lisa Bowersox	9/21	26 yrs.
Donald & Diane Levengood	9/21	54 yrs.
Daryl & Deanna McCleary	9/21	37 yrs.
Scott & Rose Potts	9/21	37 yrs.
Howard & Connie Hunter	9/26	63 yrs.
Mike & Brittany Weidner	9/26	7 yrs.
Matthew & Brittany Cloutier	9/29	10 yrs.
Sean & Jennifer Kochert	9/29	31 yrs.

# SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA



*So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. And every animal, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out of the ark by families.... God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."*

*(Genesis 8:18-19; 9:12-13)*

Following the flood – a disaster horrific in scope and cause – God brought forth a time and a place, where healing and renewal could begin. Camp Noah is a ministry, carrying on in God’s covenantal promises of care and life, especially for families and especially for children whose loved ones may no longer be there to protect and nurture them. The “ark” that gets built, comes in the form of congregations and volunteers, along with professionals in counseling and in faith, who create a safe and supportive environment – where, for a day or a week, children can gather to run and play, draw and paint, sing and listen, pray and build new connections of love and care, new trust that God loves them and that the future can be better, brighter and bolder than the past. Christ is the rainbow and the rock, that provides new colors to paint and safe waters to drink and to splash in, without fear of drowning in grief and despair. As the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, we are honored and grateful to take part in this life-giving ministry, offering our resources, our time and our spaces, to make a bright new day for these kids, these families, and “for all future generations.”

+ Bishop Christopher deForest

Have you ever felt overwhelmed and unable to cope with a situation? There have been times during covid that many have felt that way—worry about those who were sick—concerned for families who had lost someone. It was hard enough for adults—but what about children? Camp Noah is a Lutheran camping organization run out of Minnesota that provides weeklong camp experiences for children who have experienced traumatizing natural disasters like tornados, floods, hurricanes—and covid. This past summer, just such a camp was held in Oley, PA. Camp Noah provided a week of fun and engaging experiences through books, crafts, music, art, and games that allowed kids to express their feelings and concerns regarding covid. One young camper said, “this camp has been a blessing.” And it was! Everyone involved—including adult volunteers—felt the healing presence of God among them! Thank you to the many congregations whose Mission Support dollars to the Northeast Pennsylvania Synod provided grant money to help fund Camp Noah. It really was a blessing to all!

+ Pastor Julie Osterhout,  
Trinity Lutheran-Wernersville



**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**September 2022**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> Noon—Amity Fr. Circle 7 PM—Christian Ed.	<b>2</b> 10 AM—Bible Study	<b>3</b> 6 PM—Holy Comm
<b>4</b> 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm.	<b>5</b> <i>Labor Day</i>	<b>6</b> Quilting 2 PM—TOPS 2 PM—Knit & crochet	<b>7</b> 10 AM—Bible Study	<b>8</b> 7 PM—Choir rehearsal	<b>9</b> 10 AM—Bible Study	<b>10</b> 6 PM—Holy Comm
<b>11</b> 8 & 10:30—H.C. 9:15—Rally Day 9:30—Finance 11:30—Bible intro. class	<b>12</b> 10 AM—Bible Study 6:30--CDC 7 PM—Pastoral Care	<b>13</b> Quilting 9 AM—Knit & crochet 2 PM--TOPS	<b>14</b> 10 AM—Bible Study 7 PM--Council	<b>15</b> 9:30 AM—Social Min. 7 PM—Choir 7:30 PM—Crime Watch	<b>16</b> 10 AM—Bible Study	<b>17</b> 7:30 AM--Property 6 PM—Holy Comm
<b>18</b> 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—Sun. School	<b>19</b> 10 AM—Bible Study 12-7 PM—Blood Dr.	<b>20</b> Quilting 2 PM--TOPS 2 PM—Knit & crochet	<b>21</b> 10 AM—Bible Study	<b>22</b> 7 PM—Choir rehearsal	<b>23</b> 10 AM—Bible Study	<b>24</b> 6 PM—Holy Comm
<b>25</b> 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. Bible presentation 9:15—Sun. School	<b>26</b> 10 AM—Bible Study	<b>27</b> Quilting 9 AM—Knit & crochet 2 PM--TOPS	<b>28</b> 10 AM—Bible Study 7 PM—Worship & Music	<b>29</b> 7 PM—Choir rehearsal	<b>30</b> 10 AM—Bible Study	