



**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

**JULY, 2018**

**Y**ou could be forgiven for not being in church on June 10th if the reason you weren't there was to avoid the gospel lesson for that week. The gospel reading was from Mark chapter 3 (Mark 3:20-35) in which Jesus' family came to collect him from his teaching ministry because they feared he had gone out of his mind.

Nobody likes to be accused of actually being crazy by their family. In response to his familial accusation of having gone out of his mind Jesus replied, *'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'* (Mark 3:33-35)

Ouch! This sure doesn't sound like good old fashioned family values to me. It would be hard to find a more pointed poke at the institution of the family than this statement here. Naturally the question has arisen, was Jesus anti-family?

If this were Jesus' only statement that drew family relations into question you could chalk it up as a bad day, but this is not the only place Jesus questioned family relations. The family is cast as an impediment to discipleship in Luke 9:60, Jesus claimed to come for the purpose of creating strife in families in Matthew 10:34 and Luke 12:51, and he put out this little chestnut in Luke 14:26, *"Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple."*

Yowza.

Some Christian traditions developed which took Jesus' challenge to the family very seriously and literally. It surely played a role in the movement within the early church which favored celibacy and eventually, by the year 800, led to mandated celibacy for all (western) clergy.

Other traditions, like the distinctly American Shaker tradition, eschewed family life in favor of communal life (and they're gone!) So what are we to make of this?

I do not believe Jesus is anti-family, nor do I think he was encouraging the abandonment of family. In fact, I think the opposite is at work here. Jesus is not anti-family and he doesn't advocate for less family. I believe Jesus is pro-family, so pro-family that he radically expanded what family meant for his followers.

Even though Jesus seemed to suggest he had a new family he definitely did not separate from his mother, brothers and sisters. In fact, we are told Jesus' mother was present at his crucifixion and his brother James became the first official leader of the church. No, Jesus didn't diminish his family, if anything he expanded it. For Jesus, the family he was bringing into being was no less than the family of God. And far from separating from one's biological family the follower of Jesus was called to see their family as inclusive of any who do the will of the Father.

This means that Christians do not abandon their families but identify with and advocate on behalf of families in their churches, in their communities, in their nations and around the world. This identification and advocacy flows out of Jesus "super-family" ethic to which we have been made a part by our baptism into Christ.

Does such an identification actually mean anything? It should mean for us that the things we would want for our families: sustenance, shelter, security, mutual support, hope for the future, etc. are things we should advocate for and seek to provide for our new expanded *Jesus-family* around the world. This also means that things we would not want for our own families: want, inadequate healthcare, danger and war, the forced separation of children from their families, despair, etc. are realities we could not imagine tolerating silently in our *Jesus-family*.

So the next time Jesus gets the institution of the family in his cross hairs, don't stay away. Jesus is not anti-family, Jesus is the super family Messiah. Jesus is about more family not less, but we should be clear about how our new families are defined, *Jesus said, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."*

Welcome to Jesus' super family.  
--Pastor Frey

**--WORSHIP IN JULY--**

<b>June 30</b>	<b>6:00 P.M. – Service cancelled</b>
July 1	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship
	<b>(No Communion since Pastor will be away at Youth Gathering)</b>
July 7	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
July 8	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion
July 14	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
July 15	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship
July 21	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
July 22	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion
July 28	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
July 29	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship

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

**Wedding:** June 16 – Brian Wegman & Kelsey Brown

**Funeral:** June 6 – Peter Landry

**Baptisms:** June 24 – Eleanor Grace Davidheiser, daughter of Ryan & Jennifer (Kim) Davidheiser

**Aubrie Jo Weidner**, daughter of Michael & Brittany (Burns) Weidner



**ELCA YOUTH GATHERING IN HOUSTON.....**

By the time you read this, we will be in Houston! First, we want to thank everyone for their generosity in donating and helping us raise funds through our coffee house and chili cookoff and pancake breakfast. The pancake breakfast raised \$1,300 in free will donations with other donations coming in the offering basket at the church service. In all, we have collected just over \$9,000 which is very close to our real goal once all expenses were considered. Thank you so much to everyone who helped us reach this goal, and a special thanks to Anna Brown and Tim Schell who helped make the pancake breakfast a success.

Here's a little taste of what we will be doing. We fly to Houston on June 26 and should get in about 4:33 pm. We will be renting a mini-van to shuttle us to and from the airport and around to other destinations. Tuesday night we plan on taking a shopping trip to buy water and snacks and breakfast foods to carry with us. Wednesday we have tickets to visit NASA! The actual youth gathering starts at 7 pm Wednesday so we have a little time for sight-seeing. The Wednesday mass gathering and all the evening mass gatherings (of 30,000 youth and adults) will feature several speakers and several musical artists. Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will be greeting us on the first night. (She will also be leading worship on Sunday morning and preaching.) YOU CAN SEE IT ALL on LIVE STREAMING! Just go to [Gathering@elca.org](http://Gathering@elca.org) and you should be able to hear and see the same things we will. The theme for Wednesday is God's Call Changes Everything and we will study the call of Moses in Exodus 3:1-12.

Thursday is our Synod Day. All the youth and adults from our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod at the gathering will meet together in the Marriott Marquis downtown to study the Bible, discuss, learn, and worship together. Bishop Zeiser will be there with us. A band from Schwartzwald Lutheran in Jacksonwald will lead the music. The theme for this day is God's Love Changes Everything, and our Bible study is about the woman at the well in John 4:4-30.

Friday is our Service Project Day. We will get up early and get on a bus assigned to us and find out then where we are going and what we are doing. The theme for the day is God's Grace Changes Everything, and the Bible lesson is Philip and the Ethiopian in Acts 8:26-39. The Service Day includes a celebration of service from 1:30 – 3:30 pm at the NRG Center, the home base for many activities and evening gatherings.

Saturday is our Interactive Learning Day. The theme for the day is God's Hope Changes Everything, and the Bible passage is the Road to Emmaus in Luke 24:13-35. The NRG Center will serve as a holy playground for participants to engage and be immersed in the life and breath of the church, the community of God. The space is as big as at least 5 football fields and is broken into many smaller spaces, centers under the categories of: Reflect, Move, Connect, Accompany, Bond, Dream, and Serve. The experiences will range from bumper cars and ropes courses to a drum circle, photo booths, a water walk, global farm challenge, a labyrinth, a center to help construct framing for walls of two houses, donating blood and donating hair. There are 68 interactive centers for youth and adults to visit!

Sunday is our closing worship time and who knows what we'll do in the afternoon. The theme for Sunday is Jesus Changes Everything and our Bible focus is Matthew 9:18-26 where Jesus raises a little girl from death. The plane whisks us back to Philadelphia on Monday, July 2 with many experiences and tales to tell of how God Changes Everything.



Please pray for us during this time, for open and receptive minds to deepen our faith, caring hearts, strength and endurance in the heat, and the ability to retain the uplifting spirit that these gatherings create. Pray for Kate Hendricks, Everett Frey, Erin Mooney, Maeve Bartra, Cindy

Matosky, Joy Gerhart, and Pastor Frey.

## **NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD ASSEMBLY JUNE 8-9, 2018**

This year the theme of the synod assembly was "Sharing Ministries, Building Relationships." Alongside some of the normal assembly activities like voting for delegates to the ELCA assembly and representatives on committees, hearing speakers from the ELCA and voting on resolutions, time was allotted to launch the delegates into workshops, service projects and the exploration of various ministries in select churches. Items for Health Kits were assembled, jars of peanut butter and jelly were collected for a local food pantry, emergency preparedness kits were assembled for the Red Cross, food packages were made at a Food Warehouse, mulch and sand were spread at Bear Creek Camp, and school kits were assembled. We visited Bear Creek Camp and met some of the summer camp staff. (The camp is using the same theme as the ELCA Youth Gathering—This Changes Everything) We also viewed the many table displays presented by congregations in the synod and synod ministry teams like the Faith Formation Team and the Youth, Young Adult and Family Team (affectionately called YoYoFa), congregations who have merged together, congregations who have a knitting ministry, the United Lutheran Seminary (new creation from Gettysburg and Philadelphia seminaries), the Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and many others.

In the assembly plenary sessions, we heard Pastor President Gustavo Gomez Pascua from the church in Argentina and Uruguay speak about his congregations and the relationship with the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod as companion synods. On Friday afternoon we heard Nick Kiger, Associate Director of Mission Support for the ELCA, who showed us a video of ministries going on in the ELCA supported by our benevolence dollars. In the discussion of the proposed budget, a delegate questioned why money was being cut from youth ministry. Worship is always a joyous occasion at synod assembly and this year much of the music had an Argentinian flair.

Our delegates Ray and Carolyn DiSandro, pastor and I (Joy) had a good time in Wilkes-Barre. Next year the assembly will be a one-day meeting in Hazelton, and in 2020 we will meet at the Kalahari resort to elect a new bishop.

## YOUTH NEWS.....



SPYY had a fun game time on June 10 between the church services, and SPLAT beautified the township building with multicolored marigolds (planted in the rain!). Our Youth and Family Ministry Committee meets after the deadline for this newsletter, so we have no activities to announce at this time, but stay tuned!

## OZZIE THE OTTER SAYS.....

**"JOIN ME FOR ADVENTURES ON THE RIVER  
JULY 15-19 AT THIS YEAR'S VBS!"**



Hold on tight for a totally tubular adventure of games, music, crafts, science and more!

Sunday, July 15 - Thursday, July 19

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

(dinner provided for families at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.)

This year's theme: Rolling River Rampage!

Children are invited to experience a white-water rafting ride of a lifetime with God.

Age 3 through completed grade 6, with 3-year-old children accompanied by a parent.

Just \$15 for five evenings of fun.

The Registration form is on our church website,

[www.stpaulsdouglassville.com](http://www.stpaulsdouglassville.com)

**We are looking for helpers in all areas**

If possible, wear the following colors each evening: Sunday—blue;

Monday—green; Tuesday—red; Wednesday—yellow; Thursday--purple

## ARE YOU IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION?

The church office would like to assemble a comprehensive list of all congregation members who are physicians, PAs, nurses, EMTs, or have any medical background or training, active or retired. This information will not be shared, it is being assembled for safety preparedness and emergency care. Please email the church office coordinator, Susanne, at [sleier@stpaulsdouglassville.com](mailto:sleier@stpaulsdouglassville.com) at your earliest convenience.



## RELAY FOR LIFE

Much appreciation goes out to the congregation for their generosity in supporting our St. Paul's team at the Relay for Life. The event was held Saturday, May 19 at the Daniel Boone High School. Our team raised \$1,988, and the event raised over \$120,000 for the American Cancer Society. Thank you to everyone that walked a few laps and stopped by our booth. It was fun to see people wearing our balloon animal hats, and our Noah costume won "Best Mascot." We held the Basket Raffle, and distributed the seven gift baskets to all the lucky winners.

## DO YOU HAVE A PHOTOGRAPH OF YOUR HANDS ON YOUR WEDDING DAY?

If so, the Decorating Committee would like a copy to use in a special project. Email the photo to:

[emilyndalesmom@aol.com](mailto:emilyndalesmom@aol.com). If you have a print of the



picture, Carole Renninger can scan the photo and return it to you. Either give the picture to Carole,

give it to Susanne in the Church office, or place it in the

basket in the Narthex. Place the picture in an envelope and label it with your name. We would like to have as many pictures as possible. Thank you.

## SAVE THE DATES

Our Apple Festival will be Saturday, October 6, and the Crop Walk will be Sunday, October 14.

### Apple Festival

The Committee is seeking volunteers for two positions:

Music Chairperson - After ten years, we salute Charles Weiser and thank him for his guidance and expertise. Although he has resigned, Charlie both planned and contracted the musical entertainment for this year's event. Thank you, Charlie, you will be missed! So all that is required of the new chairperson this year is to be present to welcome the musicians and coordinate their sets.



Flower Exhibit Chairperson - This is a new position, and might involve the creation of a team. The group will assemble autumnal items and create displays and centerpieces for the event, similar to a flower show.

If you are interested in either position, please contact Carole Renninger at 484-794-2652 or [emilyndalesmom@aol.com](mailto:emilyndalesmom@aol.com).

Apple Festival meetings will be held June 24, July 29, August 26 and September 23, between Worship Services in the Fellowship Hall. New members and volunteers are always welcome!



My name is Emma Serrian and I am a member of Girl Scout Troop 1145. This year I am pursuing my Silver Award. My project has two parts: making 'pet adoption bags' for newly adoptive "pet parents" who adopt from the Animal Rescue League and making

homemade cat and dog treats for the volunteers and staff to share with the animals housed at the ARL. I chose to work with the ARL because I am a volunteer there and also because of the ARL's new push to become a "no-kill" shelter, a policy which I hope succeeds. This is also a

busy time there (over 250 cats alone were processed in the month of May).

To accomplish my project, I am collecting donations to fill the bags, make the treats, and also to donate to the Animal Rescue League. During the first four weeks in July (1<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>), there will be a 'donation station' where you can place items that will be used for my project or given directly to the ARL. Look for the posters in the Narthex/Fellowship area.

The items I am requesting include:

- single serve cans or pouches of kitten, cat, puppy or dog food
- cat or dog toys; cat or dog treats
- chew toys/bones for dogs
- litter scoops and plastic waste pick up bags
- containers of pumpkin, peanut butter, whole wheat flour for the treats
- XL Ziploc BIG Storage bags
- larger bags of dry dog, cat, or kitten food
- Cat litter, Bleach, laundry detergent, AA batteries.



I would be happy to answer any questions you have about my project.

Thank you for supporting me in this mission.

**Weekly Prayer Service -- Wednesdays--9:00 AM**

We pray for every member of the congregation on Wednesday mornings at 9 am. 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. On Wednesday mornings we also pray for churches around the world, leaders in the ELCA, our staff and council members, our political leaders, those in the military, special requests, and many more. If you are free a Wednesday morning, stop in and join us. We are always finished before 9:30 AM. Included this month in our prayers will be: Fred Hoffert, Mary Ellen Hoffert, Ashleigh Hoover, Jason Hunter, McKenzie Hunter, Cameron Hunter, Howard Hunter, Connie Hunter, Jackie Hurchalla, Thomas Beil, Elizabeth Jablonski, Jacob Beil, Charlotte Beil, Frank Jablonski, Kathy Jablonski. If you have anyone to add to the prayer list, please fill out a Prayer Request Card found in the pew racks or call the church office. Please pray for those with special concerns: Eric Burkhart, James Cooke, Jeannie Crass, Valerie Day, Maureen Dolan, Sharon Dotterer, David Focht, Lynn Gibson, Greg Godon, Marie Hafer, Margaret Kakas, Sue Keay, Pauline Lutz, Ronnie McCarragher, Beverly McClung, Sherry Rogers, June Shirey, Brian Spitko, Kelly Stoltzfus, Sue Strain, Gwen Sullivan, Ralph Trainer, Millard Watson, Tom Yetto, family and friends of Lucille Muller, Jeanne Adams, Mel Lamb, Peter Landry, and all others listed below or those we name in our hearts: Amanda, Carole Barbary, Fern Brown, Doug Cook, Kimmi Cremi, Diane Davis, Barbara DePrefontaine, Mary Ellen Eidell, Ron Glaser, Bob Graeff, David Groff, Connie Hunter, Frank Jablonski, Lisa Moore, Heather Powers, Dale Tobolski, homebound— Geraldine Barbone, Peggy Burns, Jennie Clouser, Carol DeLong, Grace Frey, Jan Haas, Daniel Light, Laura Schmale, Alma Shirey, Patsy Smale, Pauline Trout, Richard Wise.



**THANK YOU.....**

*Dear Friends of St. Paul's ELCA,  
Thank you for your recent gift of \$720 to CWS Blankets and Tools! Your gift enables CWS to provide much needed blankets after disaster strikes or to keep someone warm on a cold night. It ensures families have seeds and tools for a home garden or nets to fish.*

*In peace, Eric Luckenbill, CWS*

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*St. Paul's Lutheran Church,  
Once again I'm saying many thanks for allowing me to use your Fellowship Hall for my annual flute recital. It was very successful with approximately 75 parents, grandparents and friends in attendance. Enclosed is my check to cover the cost of tuning the piano.*

*Sincerely, Anne Weiser*



- |      |                     |      |                    |
|------|---------------------|------|--------------------|
| 7/1  | Denise Millard      | 7/14 | Robert Endy        |
| 7/2  | Keely Woodruff      |      | Connie Hunter      |
| 7/3  | Bruce Musselman     | 7/15 | Mason Rotelli      |
| 7/4  | Aubrey Braun        | 7/16 | Aubrey Stumhofer   |
|      | Tyler Cloutier      | 7/17 | Zachary Coyle      |
|      | Hunter Konarski     |      | Janice Miller      |
| 7/5  | Ed Chroscinski      | 7/18 | Jordan Koury       |
| 7/6  | Jeanette Root       |      | Emily Ridge        |
| 7/7  | MJ Talbott          | 7/19 | Ed Berger          |
| 7/8  | Ashley Bonetz       |      | Lorrie Monroe      |
|      | Susan Kubovsak      | 7/20 | Kris Poole         |
| 7/9  | Todd DePrefontaine  | 7/21 | Janice Haas        |
|      | Autumn Hampton      |      | Vienna Shober      |
|      | Grant Shober        | 7/22 | Pat Oxenford       |
| 7/10 | Kim Koury           |      | Marley Yambor      |
|      | Cindy Matosky       | 7/23 | Stella Boyd        |
|      | Lynwood Weil        | 7/24 | Courtney Gougler   |
|      | Lois Wenzel         | 7/26 | Kyle Vonderlinden  |
| 7/12 | Allen Hetzell       | 7/27 | Charles Burns, Jr. |
|      | Parker LeGrand      | 7/28 | Kaitlyn Esenwein   |
| 7/13 | Tiana Gallagher     |      | Sue Prizer         |
|      | Bonnie Topur        | 7/29 | Carlene Yerger     |
| 7/14 | David Bennis        | 7/30 | Victoria Bennis    |
|      | Franklin Brown, Jr. | 7/31 | Ruth Grim          |

**HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY TO –**

David & Victoria Bennis	7/3	14 yrs.
Tatum & Kris Poole	7/3	14 yrs.
Russ & Diane Hartline	7/5	21 yrs.
Dave & Danielle Walt	7/5	21 yrs.
Mark & Susan Eisenhuth	7/9	24 yrs.
David & Lindsey Yoder	7/10	8 yrs.
William & Rose Stalnecker	7/11	48 yrs.
Stuart & Rosalynda Crichton	7/14	11 yrs.
Duane & Cindy Dominick	7/18	37 yrs.
Gene & Nancy Stewart	7/18	18 yrs.
Albert & Brigitte Northrup	7/19	15 yrs.
Pastor Greg & Wendy Frey	7/24	25 yrs.
Joel & Bonnie Steever	7/24	47 yrs.
Darvin & Mary Levensgood	7/25	59 yrs.

**--YTD Giving thru May 2018--**

	<u>Jan- May.2017</u>	<u>Jan-May. 2018</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>% chg.</u>
Offerings	\$ 150,903	\$ 154,683	-3,779	- 2.5
Renovation Contr.	42,559	28,627	-13,932	-32.7
Total Giving	\$ 193,462	\$ 183,310	-\$-10,152	- 5.2
Mortgage Balance		\$357,971.71		



Have 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.

