

CORNERSTONE

“THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU AT ST. PAUL’S”

November 2019

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

Volume 25, Issue 10

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Jesus said, “To what should I compare the kingdom of God? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.” (Luke 13.20-21)

November brings many meals of thanksgiving. Families will gather for an annual feast. Some will gather with other Christians to give thanks and share in the Holy Meal provided by God. Many will help to serve an especially festive meal in shelters and soup kitchens. And at Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, in Dormont, the donations of many people will be turned into more than 1,000 meals to those who eat alone, or without family, or with a few devoted friends. November is a time for general thanksgiving – in our homes, in our churches, and in our country.

Scripture tells us a woman mixed flour and yeast. She kneaded the dough, covered it, and later kneaded it again. When it was ready, she shaped loaves and baked them in her oven. The process and the baked loaves that resulted from the process reminded Jesus and remind us that the Kingdom of God can be experienced in the routine action of bread baking and the Kingdom is in the simple words we speak at the end of every Sunday liturgy: “Thanks be to God!”

The Bread and Wine that is set apart by the congregation and blessed by the pastor is the Real Presence of Jesus and the Kingdom of God in our midst. These elements hallow our Thanksgiving Meals, as well as, the hot dogs and the peanuts we eat at Heinz Field. These common meals proclaim that none of us is alone, that all of us live under

God’s abundant grace, that we are a divinely appointed community gathered around God’s Word.

The uncommon element of this November is that the woman with yeast and flour in her hands will be Brenda Henry. Having come to PLUM to complete her training for ministry, Brenda will be ordained into the Ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on November 3rd, 2:30 p.m. in Christ Lutheran Church, 405 Kennedy Ave. Duquesne. Bishop Kurt Kusserow will be present to conduct the ordination. Many of you have gotten to know Brenda as she has delivered sermons, taught Bible Study and Confirmation Classes, attended Council Meetings, and on other occasions.

Brenda’s home is in St. Croix. She came to Pittsburgh to practice social work. She attended Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; she took a number of classes from United Lutheran Seminary and has been mentored by Pastor Susan Schwartz, Hope Lutheran Church, Forest Hills and Pastor John Gropp, PLUM. She jumped through more hoops of approval than any of us would have imagined. She brings with her the yeast of a varied religious background and a strong sensitivity to the poor and marginalized. She freely shares her faith experience as a Black woman and mother of two young adults.

The yeast that Pastor Brenda brings to PLUM will surely raise us to new heights of ministry and service in our communities. Please keep Pastor Brenda in your prayers as she becomes our pastor and she takes up this important role in our church. The yeast of God’s love and grace are in our hands and hers. Together we will move the life and mission of the church forward.

“THANKS BE TO GOD!”

+Pastor Paul Koch

on behalf of the PLUM Pastoral Team



I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank each and every one of you for providing warm hospitality in your worship space for my Internship Project!

The Vine speaks, and continues to speak to all of us, the branches, from the beginning of time, to today, and will speak till the end of time. As we are trimmed and pruned by The Vinedresser, there can be pain, that is when we can be sure that we have each other! If there was one truth within this eleven-chapter study, it is that we are connected to each other within this wonderful, unique entity that we call PLUM!

If you showed up for one class, all the classes, or even gave thought of attending, thank YOU from the bottom of my heart. Because of you, my life has been enriched in sharing the word and work of our God!

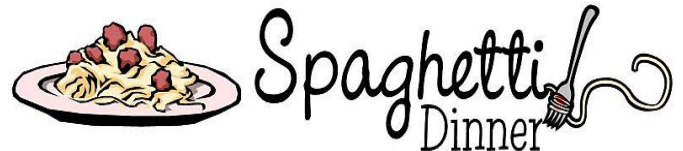
May God continue to bless and keep you! I will see you very soon in your beautiful worship space! It is a privilege to be your Vicar,
Vicar Mandy Gilberti



Recently PLUM received word about the destinations of the 15,000 Rise Against Hunger meals you helped to package on 9/7/2019. Your meals have gone to impact two partners. A shipping container, holding 285,120 meals, has been sent to Zambia for Rise Against Hunger's partner, Family Legacy Missions.



St. Paul's is participating in the Thrivent Member Network's Pop Tab Challenge. We will be collecting tabs from cans through Sunday, December 1st. The collected pop tabs will be used for Ronald McDonald charities. There is a box on the window sill in the Narthex and also a plastic container on the desk in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to have a poster for your workplace, please see Jill.



Resurrection Lutheran Church (7600 Steubenville Pike, Oakdale, PA 15071) will hold their **Election Day Spaghetti Dinner** on **Tuesday, November 5** from **4:00 - 7:00 p.m.** Tickets are: Adults for \$8; children under 12 for \$4.00.

Menu includes spaghetti and meatballs, tossed salad, rolls, cold drinks and coffee or tea. Take-Out is available. Homemade desserts will be available for purchase.



ST. ANDREW CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
Friday and Saturday, November 15th & 16th
11:00 – 4:00 p.m.

218 Alter Street East Carnegie
Everyone is welcome to attend the annual Christmas Bazaar featuring quality homemade soups & chili, pierogies, cookies, pies, cakes, candies, crafts, gifts, decorations, Grandma's Closet, Basket Palooza and Door Prizes. Come and shop for bargains.



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH VENDOR SHOW

Bethany Lutheran Church in Dormont is sponsoring a vendor show on Saturday, November 23rd from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. There will be several vendors to shop with, a bake sale, basket raffle and a 50/50 drawing. This is a perfect time to begin your Christmas shopping. Proceeds will benefit Bethany and our missions in the community.



November monthly mission

Again for our November monthly mission, St. Paul's will be adopting a South Central Elementary School Family. Monetary donations are being sought so that the children's Christmas wishes may be fulfilled (Ann Morrocco and Jill A. Shook will be doing the shopping for the items requested).

All donations (cash or check written to the church) should be at the church by Sunday, November 24. Special envelopes are located on the table in the rear of the Sanctuary. If you have any questions, contact Ann at (724-746-5897). Let us show the Love of Jesus to this family in need.



You are invited to the 36th Annual Free Thanksgiving Day Dinner on Thursday, November 28th from 12:00-2:00 p.m. Take-Out Meals will be available from 1:00-2:00 p.m. The dinner will be held at the

Canonsburg United Presbyterian Church 112 West Pike Street and is sponsored by The Greater Canonsburg/Houston Ministerial Association and the Community.



Pies are needed

Pies are needed for the Greater Canonsburg/Houston Ministerial Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Last year, thanks to generous donations, over 400 slices of pie were served. Please help by baking or buying a pie (or pies) to donate. If possible, please let Jill know by Sunday, November 18th if you will be donating pies and how many. Pies can be delivered to the Canonsburg U.P. church on Wednesday, November 27 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or Thanksgiving morning between 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Any pies not used for the dinner will be sent to Meals on Wheels in Houston.

Did You Know about this Giving Option for Seniors?

As part of The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016, Congress permanently reinstated a taxpayer's ability to take annual required minimum distributions (RMD's) from their IRA's and contribute those withdrawals directly to charitable organizations, treating them as tax-free distributions. These transactions are called qualified charitable distributions (QCD's). If you are age 70½ or older, you generally must withdraw a RMD each year from your traditional IRA and/or employer-sponsored retirement plan. This new legislation gives you a convenient way to satisfy IRA distribution requirements, support charitable causes, and lower your adjust gross income all at the same time. If you are interested in contributing directly to St. Paul's in this manner, contact your financial institution(s) where your IRA's are invested to see if they can accommodate your request.



November Assistants and Sponsors

Assisting Minister

- ❖ November 3 – Ann Morrocco
- ❖ November 10 – Ann Morrocco
- ❖ November 17 – Carol Ferens
- ❖ November 24 – Jill A. Shook

Eternal Candle

The Ferens Family

Fellowship

- ❖ November 10 – Karen Billingham
- ❖ November 24 – Jill A. Shook

Flowers

- ❖ November 3
- ❖ November 10 – Ann Morrocco
- ❖ November 17
- ❖ November 24 – Jill A. Shook

Lectors

- ❖ November 3 – Carol Jean Straka
- ❖ November 10 – Mark Pollo
- ❖ November 17 – Carol Jean Straka
- ❖ November 24 – John Straka

If you are interested in serving as an assistant or sponsoring the eternal candle or flowers, please contact the church office (724-745-5962) or email: stpaulscbg@verizon.net.

The Annual Meeting for election of President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, two council members at Large and the adoption of the 2020 Budget will be held on Sunday December 8th following the worship service. Make plans to attend.



Worship Schedule

November 3	Vicar Mandy Gilberti
November 10	Rev. Liz Mayforth
November 17	Vicar Mandy Gilberti
November 24	Rev. Brenda Henry

Pastor's schedule is subject to change without notice.



Keep in your prayers: Ev, Matthew, Anna Mae, Nancy, Pat, Alex, Mark, Albert, Patty, Pam, Virginia, Jennifer, Betty Jane, Rich, Rachel, Pat, Donna, Cooper, Edward, Anna Mae, Eddie, Randy, Steve, Barbara, Tom, Charlotte, John, Tondi, Pastor Wayne, Kelly, Mike, Colin, Jeff, Tracey, the Miller, Paulick, Galano, Burchesky, Grove, Richmond families. If anyone should be added or removed, please contact the church office (724-745-5962) or email: stpaulscbg@verizon.net.



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Randy Bell	November 20
Donna Filby	November 25
Zack Nimal	November 25



Don't forget to turn your clocks back an hour on Saturday when you go to bed.