

CORNERSTONE

“THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU AT ST. PAUL’S November 2022 Volume 29, Issue 9 St. Paul’s Lutheran Church



Changing Seasons

Dear Partners in Christ,

Can you believe it is Fall? Where did the Summer go? It may have gone by quickly; however, we had much to celebrate this summer. We had the opportunity to meet Pastor Alex as each congregation held a fellowship time either before or after worship. We had a grand celebration at his installation where we met his family and treasured friends from his time in Ohio and his birthplace, Liberia. We also spent time together with three in-person potluck gatherings at Dormont Park, Settlers Cabin Park, and White Oak Park.

We have also entered a season of praying continually for Pastor John, our beloved sibling who is experiencing health concerns from an advanced case of Lyme disease. We are grateful for every day that his health

improves. We are trusting God’s healing touch to strengthen and sustain Pastor John as he recovers.

As we make the switch to Fall, we are restarting the narrative lectionary that has been the selection of our scripture passages this past four years. When we began in 2018, it was new and foreign to have such long passages of scripture. Over time we have come to appreciate the unfolding stories that allow us time to journey through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation with a particular focus on one of the Gospels each year. This year it is the Gospel of Matthew. Additionally, we are reading and discussing Bishop Kusserow’s book, *What is the Gospel*, Thursday evenings at 8 pm on zoom or at individual congregations as part of in-person Bible studies or fellowship time.

We are also making the shift in living with COVID. It remains a concern. And yet the gripping terror that first assailed us in 2020 at the thought of COVID is being replaced with an awareness that it is here to stay. So too is the need for our caring actions towards another...we continue to pray for each other when someone succumbs to it and encourage individuals to stay home when ill.

Yes, the days are once again getting shorter and the evenings cooler. And we are growing in our maturity of dealing with the ebb and flow that our journey is taking us on. Father Richard Rohrer shared in his meditation *A Ripening Mind and Heart*, a concept called ripening. It is a process he describes for aging well. The transition we make from being anxious about everything to an awareness of patient learning. Here is how he applied it to our spirituality:

“If we are to speak of a *spirituality* of ripening, we need to recognize that it is always characterized by an increasing tolerance for ambiguity, a growing sense of subtlety, an ever-larger ability to include and allow, and a capacity to live with contradictions and even to love them! I cannot imagine any other way of coming to those broad horizons except through many trials, unsolvable paradoxes, and errors in trying to resolve them.”¹ Together we

¹ Richard Rohr, “A Ripening Mind and Heart,” Center for Action and Contemplation, September 18, 2022, accessed September 18, 2022, <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/a-ripening-mind-and-heart-2022-09-18/>.

are learning this process of ripening. As individuals, as a ministry and as a community, we are coming to terms with adapting and adjusting to the changes. May we continue to be guided by the instructions Paul wrote to the church in Thessalonica on how to faithfully navigate this journey:

***Be joyful always,
pray continually;
give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is God’s will for you in Christ
Jesus.
(1Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV)***

In service together,
Pastor Brenda



- Masks are now optional at St. Paul’s. Masks will not be worn during the service unless someone has any objections. CDC, Synod, & Plum are recommending masks for people that have not been vaccinated.
- PLUM Board made the decision to allow congregations to adjust how we do communion to allow for a return to the communion rail. However, COVID safety protocols remain in place. Councils to determine change in consult with Pastors.

St. Paul's will continue with our present process until another decision is made.

- **Confirmation Class:** We have 6 students so far on the list for the St. Paul's Confirmation Class. The class will attend a meeting once a month for one (1) year; attend worship at least twice a month; participate in service activities with the group. A camp for all PLUM Confirmation students for one week in June and is subsidized by congregations and PLUM. Each student in Grade 6 and up who has not been confirmed is qualified. Please notify Nancy Pollo, President, 724-207-0941 (nancypollo.research@gmail.com) or Ann Morrocco, 724-746-5897, amorocco1@gmail.com. if interested.
- **Daylight Saving Time** ends at 2AM on November 6, 2022. So, turn your clocks back 1 hour before you go to bed.
- **Communion Class:** Scheduled for November 19, 2022. St. Paul's has children, age 8 and up, who have not received communion instructions, that are eligible. Please notify Nancy Pollo, President, 724-207-0941 (nancypollo.research@gmail.com) or Ann Morrocco, 724-746-5897 (amorocco1@gmail.com) to sign up.
- **St. Paul's Children Education Program,** Our children's area (the room above the sanctuary for use during church service) is almost ready. We are in need of a baby gate so if anyone has one that is not use, please notify Nancy Pollo or Ann Morrocco. Please bring all of your ideas and volunteer intentions to assist in bringing God's stories to our youth to Nancy Pollo.
- PLUM **Taize service**, November 4, 2022, 7:00 PM, zoom.
- **What's Next meeting**, 7 November, 2022, 7PM, zoom.

- **PLUM Worship Committee Meeting**, November 9, 2022, 7PM, zoom.
- **St. Paul's family** cleaning/potluck lunch/What is the Gospel, second chapter, Bible Study, November 19, 2022, 10AM. Please join us!
- **St. Paul's Council** will meet the 3rd Monday of each month. St. Paul's Council meeting, November 21, 2022, 7PM, zoom.
- **Advent** begins November 27, 2022. Council voted to attend the Advent zoom services together, as a family, on November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2022, 7PM
- **PLUM Board** meeting, November 28, 2022, 7PM, zoom.
- 2022 Parochial Report is due March 1, 2023.
- **Bethany Ev. Lutheran, Dormont**, will hold a Fall Vendor Show, November 29, 2022, 10-3. There will be basket and 50/50 raffles in additions to many vendors.
- **What is the Gospel?** Book Study: Pastor Martin Rafanan will facilitate on Thursdays, Sep 8 – Nov 10, 2022, 8-9PM, PLUM zoom site. Register by email at PLUM@plumofpa.com. Flyer posted on bulletin board.
- **2022 Parochial Report** is due March 1, 2023.
- **PLUM Board:** Each congregation should have four (4) members on this board. This board meets once a month, usually the fourth Monday of the month, on zoom. Presently, St. Paul's only has three: Milt Stemmler; Shawndel Kelley; Ann Morrocco. If anyone is interested in becoming a PLUM Board Member, please notify Nancy Pollo, President, 724-207-094 (nancypollo.research@gmail.com) or Ann Morrocco, 724-746-5897 (amorocco1@gmail.com).

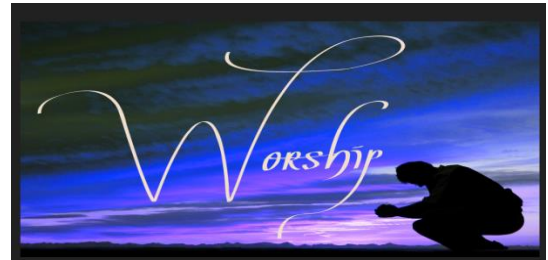
- **Messiah Lutheran, Munhall**, will hold their 16th Holly Jolly Bazaar, December 3, 2022, 9AM - 3PM. Vendors,, crafters, bake sale. Call 412-461-6958 or 412-897-8002 for info.
- **PLUM Admin/Worship Leaders Luncheon**, December 9, 2022, 11AM, St. Andrews, Carnegie. RSVP no later than November 11, 2022, to Deann, 412-466-7773 or christluthduq@gmail.com.
- **St. Paul's Council** voted to support Bethany Ev. Lutheran with much needed turkeys in 2022. Therefore, your monetary donations would be appreciated. Please place in designated areas in church, earmarked for Turkeys, Bethany, or mail to St. Paul's Lutheran Church.
- **January** – There will be a Congregation Meeting, to be announced, to approve the 2023 budget.



Eternal Candle

November – Scott & Lisa Cregut
December – Ann Morrocco
January – Ruth Latta

If you would like to sponsor the eternal candle please notify Ann Morrocco, amorrocco1@gmail.com. Donation is \$25.00. Put your name on the envelope along with your check/money in the collection plate.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE 11:15 A.M. -- St Paul's

- November 6 - Pastor Brenda Henry**
- November 13 – Pastor Alexander Sumo**
- November 20 – Pastor Sue Devine**
- November 27 – Laypastor Janet Craig**

HOW MISSION SUPPORT WORKS



The monthly mission for the month of November for St. Paul's Lutheran Church is the Canonsburg Armory.

Lutheran Church of Our Savior evangelical outreach project will be making "Comfort Kits for Cancer Patients". This project will involve collecting/making items to aid people who are battling cancers. The kits will be available for distribution to the local outpatient cancer treatment centers, friends and members. A list of items needed will be posted on the bulletin board inside the front door of St. Paul's. Please contact Cora, 412-872-4264, if you have any questions.





Assistants

November 6 – Karen Billingham
November 13 – Scott Latta
November 20 – Lee Jones
November 27 – Shawndel Kelley

Lectors

November 6 - Shawndel Kelley
November 13 – Scott Cregut
November 20 – Marcy Wright
November 27 – Mark Pollo

Usher: Scott Latta

If you are interested in serving as an assistant/lector/usher, please notify Ann Morrocco; 724-746-5897; email: amorrocco1@gmail.com.



Will you please consider saving your pop can rings? These rings are given to Bethany Evangelical Lutheran, Dormont, to help someone with cancer treatments.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



NOVEMBER FLOWER CHART

November 6 Ann Morrocco
November 13
November 20
November 27

If you are interested in placing flowers on the altar for a special occasion, please notify Ann Morrocco; 724-746-5897; email: amorrocco1@gmail.com.



FELLOWSHIP

November 6 – Karen & Logan Billingham

November 13

November 20 -

November 27

-

If you are interested in sponsoring Fellowship for one of the Sundays in October, please sign the signup sheets on the bulletin board or notify Ann Morrocco; 724-746-5897; email: amorocco1@verizon.net.



Will you please consider saving your prescription bottles? These bottles can help people in third world countries.

THANK YOU: Milt Stemmler extends his appreciation and thanks to everyone for the cards, telephone calls and prayers.

ST PAUL'S PRAYER LIST

Heal all who suffer from illness and loss, (*especially*) Pastor John Gropp (Advanced Lyme disease), Colleen Gropp, Rick Jones (Lee's brother), Charlotte, Milt, Steve, Barbara, Lee, Dom, Mike, Sue, Barb, Scott Latta (Staph Infection), Ruth Latta, Pastor Paul (Parkinson's), the Richmond Family, our Bishops, our Synod, our PLUM pastors and our PLUM family. Sustain them through their challenges, and bring all into your healing light. God of promise, **C: You hear our prayer.**



TREASURER'S UPDATE

The financial status for 2022 for St. Paul's is as follows:

Average monthly income is \$3300; average monthly expenditure is \$4700. PLUM 2022 expense is \$2998.70 monthly. In 2023 PLUM expense will be \$3269 monthly. Balance in Money Market is \$99,678; CD is \$5206. Over \$15,000 has been transferred from the money market to the checkbook to maintain bills. Our pledge for Mission Support for 2022 is \$2800. As of September 30 we have collected \$2060.

Prayerfully submitted: **Shawndel Kelley**
Treasurer



God of all good gifts, your Son gathered children into his arms and blessed them. Help us to understand our youth as they grow in years and in knowledge of your world.

Teach us to encourage their search for truth and value in their lives. Protect and bless all of our young people, especially Hazel Julia Mae Cregut, Eleanor Marie Cregut, Logan Billingham, Andrew Cowser, Gina Cowser, Austin Filby, Joelle Filby, Clarke Johnson, Larry Ryan Johnson, Gregory McGrail, Makenna McGrail, Lindsey Nimal, Josh Porter, Jaxon Porter, Jordyn Porter, Aaliyah Gilpin, Adalae Carmichael, Stephanie Richmond, Sydney Richmond, Sammie Jo Richmond, and Skylar Richmond.

Please notify Ann Morrocco, amorrocco1@gmail.com if someone should be added or deleted from our prayer lists).

PLUM PASTORS



Pastor Sue Devine
Pastor Brenda Henry
Pastor Alexander Sumo
Pastor John Gropp

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO EVERYONE

Psalms 95:1,2,6

O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.



ST PAUL'S Family FELLOWSHIP DAY

November 19, 2022

10AM – 2PM

Come and join us from 10 – 11:59AM when we do some required light cleaning. At 12PM we go to Eberle Hall and have a Pot lunch. At 1PM Pastor Brenda Henry will lead a Bible Study through the third chapter of "What is the Gospel", written by Bishop Kurt Kusserow. Each month we do another chapter. Please join us!

Stewarding the Story

LISTENING AND SHARING GOD'S STORY IN NEW WAYS



Join friends from PLUM and the SWPA Synod
for this workshop

Postponed till spring 2023

9:30 AM - 3:00 PM (includes lunch)

Hope Lutheran Church
8070 Rowan Road, Cranberry Township,
PA, 16066

Storytelling is one of the most effective ways to influence, teach, and inspire others. Stories create connection between people and illuminate ideas. This workshop will enhance and enliven your congregation's stewardship efforts through training in the art of telling your own story and God's. Created by our synod's Stewardship & Financial Support Committee.

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Jim Kulma
"Storycraft: Listening, Crafting and Telling"

Jim will present basic skills that help in the learning and internalization of biblical stories: visualization, word parallels, outline, and repetition. Foundations of oral tradition will be included, and ways that storytelling can be included in preaching, worship, education and caregiving.

Various workshops will be offered by leaders from our synod which focus on diverse aspects of stewardship: advocacy, financial, relational, and congregational.

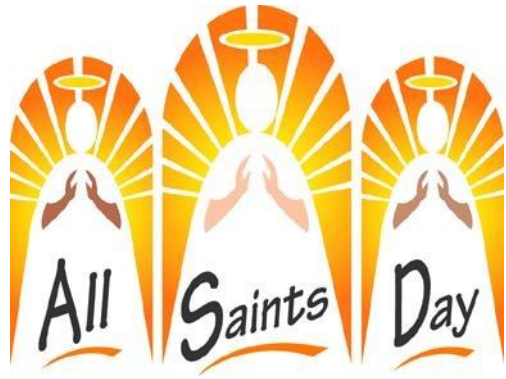
**MEMBERS OF PLUM
CONGREGATIONS
(PLUM WILL COVER THE \$10
REGISTRATION FEE):**

**REGISTER WITH DEANN AT
CHRISTLUTHDUQ@GMAIL.COM**

**PUT ON YOUR SPRING
CALENDAR**

**BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH'S
40TH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER**

Once again this year, Bethany will be holding their free Thanksgiving Dinner for the community. We will be providing takeout from Bethany from 1pm to 4pm on Thanksgiving Day and will again be doing deliveries from Mt Lebanon United Methodist Church during the same time period. Volunteers are desperately needed to both help prepare and pack the meals and deliver them to our neighbors. If you are able to help this Thanksgiving, please contact the Church office (412-531-9363). We are also in need of donated cooked turkeys or turkey breasts. Please cook, cut down and bring to Bethany either Wednesday, November 23rd or Thanksgiving Morning (November 24th). Please contact the Church if you plan to prepare a turkey. Thank you for prayerfully considering to assist us in this ministry.



Please accept my apology and please let me know if anyone has been missed or a name misspelled on this listing. Every member, past and present, is important!



IN MEMORY OF ALL SAINTS DAY, A COPY OF THE 1981 MEMBERSHIP LIST FOR ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH HAS POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD INSIDE THE FRONT DOOR OF THE CHURCH.

ALL SAINTS – November 6, 2021

**Samantha Lynn Mrvos
Carol & Harry Lezorechak
Fonya & Bill Kelley
Deloras Billingham
James Billingham
James D'Angelo
Latta Family
Deloras Billingham
Margaret Ferens
Arlen Teets
The Rev Raymond Hausele
Elizabeth Hausele
Bert & Emily Barks
John & Carmella Morrocco
Narcissus & Julia Gasparini
Michael & Dorthea Herman
Ronald Baughman
Myrna Baughman
Duane Raymond Wright
Gloria Karmazin
Pete Karmazin
Joyce Cregut
Dan Cregut Sr.
Janet Sergus
William Turoczy**