

CORNERSTONE

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

**October 2021 Volume 28, Issue 7
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church**

Stillness and Letting Go

***Be still and know that I am God... Psalm 46:10
(NIV)***

Each month the pastoral team writes an article to be shared in the various newsletters within our congregations. We have given updates on the ministry such as Bible studies, changes in the lectionary year and seasonal resources, and given thanks for your support in our ministries. We have shared joys such as when Pastor Paul celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination, or when Pastor Sue and I celebrated our ordinations, or the many ways Pastor John has touched our community. Sometimes these articles have dealt with difficult decisions that we made. This past year responding to the COVID virus and how best to care for our community has certainly been at the top. We have shared sister congregations transitioning their ministry (Trinity Lutheran Church, Sheraden & Trinity Lutheran Church, Mount Oliver) to sister congregations (Bethany Lutheran Church, Dormont & St. Andrew Lutheran Church, East Carnegie). This month another sister congregation, Zion Lutheran Church, Coraopolis will be facing this decision as they transition to Resurrection Lutheran Church, Oakdale on Sunday, Oct 10th. *Please look for*

information on how to be present for Zion and Resurrection during this transition.

Whatever the topics, we strive always to provide words of encouragement. Sometimes in writing these articles the topic is provided for us through an event or activity we are engaged in, and the words come. Other times we search for what to share and the words are not so easy. I must admit for me this month the latter one is true. With so much happening in our churches and around us, what should I share with you? What words of comfort and encouragement are needed? As I pondered these questions the response in my spirit was/is to acknowledge the importance of “stillness” and of “letting go.”

Admittedly, I found that response strange. It seems like all we have done since entering this season of the pandemic is to be still. We waited for updates on the virus, on the vaccine, on restrictions. We have waited. But have we been still? And certainly, we have faced so much, let go of so much of the familiar what more are we being asked to let go of? What more can we let go of?

Stillness may be seen as a practice of waiting with open hearts and mind, listening to a word from God. And often the response shows up in unlikely ways. While silence can be a part of the practice, stillness does not mean inaction. Stillness can occur in that connection that comes when washing dishes as you look out the window, in taking a walk, in creating (i.e., cooking, needlepoint, knitting, wood carving) or even making repairs. It can come in the waiting period of decisions about ministries while fully engaged in

servicing. Stillness is a silent place within us that takes us away from doubts, fears, or worries and instead offers a few minutes to allow our minds to roam free as it connects with our surrounding without requiring us to be actively engaged in changing the surrounding. It is in those moments that beautiful memories surface. Answers are revealed. The Divine speaks to us and settles our spirit. We reconnect to the activity and charge around us feeling lighter.

In stillness we also learn to let go. Somehow in those moments without words or conscious thoughts we often work through and work out things that may have been weighing heavily on our hearts. And as we do so we let go...of the burdens, the worries, the unsurety, even the need to control the outcome. The presence of the Holy Spirit speaks to us at a level that does not require our conscious awareness and yet we are connected to the Divine so deeply that we find moments of peace and restfulness that are often difficult to describe.

Yet, all too often, we fill our days and our times in ways that do not allow us the space to be still. The laundry list of tasks, often necessary ones, takes over. Or we allow our aloneness to take over our quiet time such that we lose the gift of stillness. We see urgency in the tasks ahead. We miss the opportunity for stillness by focusing on the burden of the tasks and not the gift of the moment.

So, my message of encouragement for us this month and in the months to come is to carve out space for stillness. Stillness to allow the Divine to speak to us and grant us soul deep healing. Stillness that will grant us the wisdom of knowing how to let go. Let go of all the coulds and shoulds so we are more present in the ways God has called us to be now.

Christ's grace and peace,

Pastor Brenda



- **Special Congregational Meeting, October 17, 2021, after service, discussing and approving the financial affairs for window and masonry repairs on the church.**
- **St. Paul's Council in-person Council Meeting, October 26, 2021, 7PM.**
- **Weekly "Pericope" Bible Study with Pastor Paul, Thursdays, 10AM, zoom.**
- **Bible Study on the Book of Revelations on Thursdays, 7PM, zoom.**
- **PLUM Call Committee Meeting, October 7, 2021, 7PM, zoom.**
- **"What's Next" (planning for the future) meeting, Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 7pm zoom. Everyone is invited to attend.**
- **PLUM Worship Service, every Sunday, 3PM, zoom.**
- **PLUM Worship Committee, October 13, 7PM, zoom.**
- **PLUM Pastoral team will once begin home visits. Please contact Ann Morrocco, 724-746-5897 (amorrocco1@verizon.net) or contact the PLUM Pastors if interested.**
- **Plum Board Meeting, October 25th, zoom**
- **On Sunday October 17th we will be CELEBRATING the Confirmation of**

Aaliyah Gilpin and Logan Billingham. PLEASE plan to attend and stay afterward for cake and a social celebration in the social hall.....

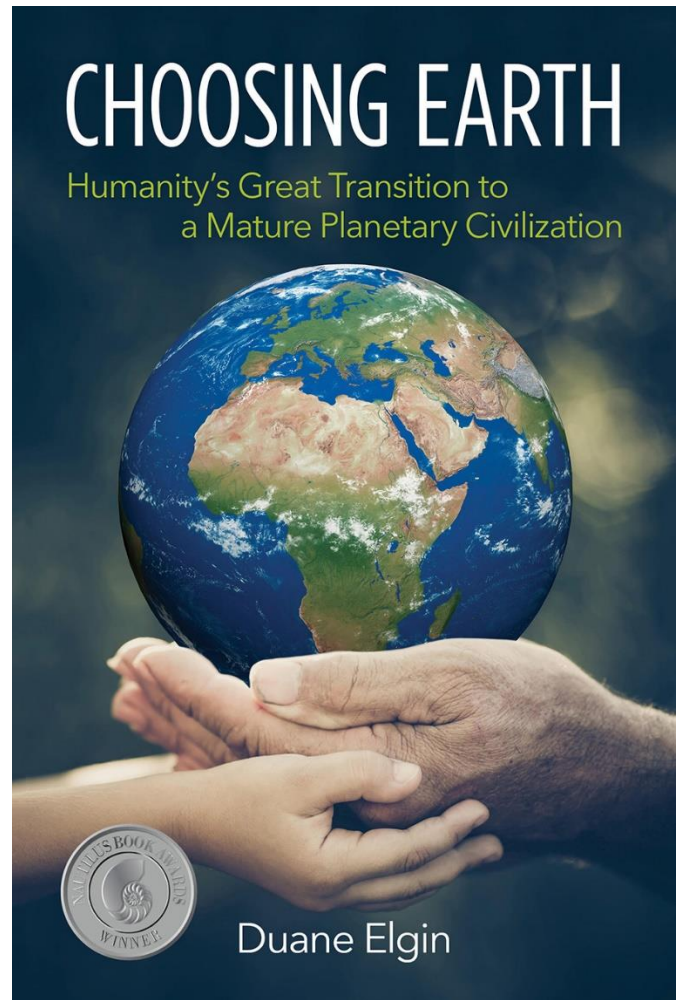
- PLUM admins, organists, pastors/worship leaders gathering at St. Andrews, November 12, 2021, 11AM.
- Rise Against Hunger is scheduled for November 13th, 2021, Christ Lutheran Church, Duquesne, 13000 meals. Setup begins at 9AM and start time is 10AM. They will need approximately 6 people from each PLUM congregation. Signup sheet will be on the bulletin board.
- If you are interested in joining the Bethany Handbell Choir, contact Karen, church office, 412-531-9363 or bethany-dormont@verizon.net. The choir practices at 2PM on Saturdays. So far, 8 people have joined. The Handbell Choir will be prerecorded and then used in the Reformation Service, October 31, 2021, 3PM, Bethany Sanctuary and on zoom.
- St. Paul's Raindrops Madagascar Relief event. Please keep adding raindrops. We would love to shower them with our blessings.

PLUM PASTORS

The Reverend John Gropp/412-680-7867
The Reverend Brenda Henry/412-390-8005
The Reverend Susan Devine/412-496-4889



October Monthly Mission is Mission Support



YOU ARE INVITED

to a Book Study sponsored by
Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries (PLUM)

Choosing Earth:
Humanity's Great Transition to a Mature Planetary Civilization
by Duane Elgin

Study leader: Rev. Dr. Martin Rafanan

beginning on Wednesday, October 6, 6:30 – 8 PM on Zoom

Study runs for 7 Wednesdays, October 6 – November 17

Please commit to attending at least 5 of the 7 sessions and doing the reading assignments for all sessions as they build upon one another.

You must register for the study to gain admittance:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlcOitrT8uH-NHbp8YAtjMOPID5v483VAvH>

Available for free as a pdf at choosingearth.org
(Google "choosing earth")

Kindle: \$2.99

Paperback: \$12.99 (Amazon)

Available at the Library

Seven 1.5 hour sessions on Zoom

October 6, 630-8pm, Introduction, Read 8-28

October 13, 630-8pm, Three Pathways Ahead, Read 30-37

October 20, 630-8pm, Stages of Great Transition 1, Read 40-78

October 27, 630-8pm, Stages of Great Transition 2, Read 79-98

November 3, 630-8pm, Foundation Great Transition 1, Read 100-130

November 10, 630-8pm, Foundation Great Transition 2, Read 131-155

November 17, 630-8pm, Integration. What's Next for You? Read 155-159

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Lutheran Campus Ministry is looking for a bookkeeper to oversee ministry's accounts; 10 or fewer hours per month. Send referrals or resumes to rev.bbennett@gmail.com or call (412) 682-6886.
- Glade Run Lutheran Services is in need of supplies for youth.
- Lutheran Advocacy Ministry is now located at 1959 Market St., Camp Hill, PA 17011.
- AGAPE Fall Festival Oct 16th 1-4
- "Enjoy" Coupon books are now available (\$30). Contact Haddie Weber (Messiah, Munhall), 412-897-8002.

- Blessed Bundles in the 2020 "Designated Outreach" for the SWPA Women of the ELCA (WELCA).



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Church offering for October can be mailed to the church or brought to the Sunday church services. All October contributions must be received no later than October 24, 2021. Contact Nancy Pollo 724-207-0941 if you have any questions.



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Please send anything that you wish to have published in St. Paul's Lutheran Church's newsletter to Ann Morrocco (724-746-5897) or email: amorrocco1@verizon.net no later than 3rd Sunday of each month. It is important that everyone become involved. Please share your suggestions and/or assistance availability with Nancy Pollo (President), 724-207-0941.



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St. Paul's Council is in the process of preparing a cleaning and maintenance log for the sanctuary, Eberle Hall, parsonage, Bathrooms in Eberle Hall, parsonage bathroom. This will be a convenient way for everyone to participate. Everyone can pick an item, do the cleaning/maintenance, then mark off the log so everyone knows what was done. Also scheduling another cleaning day soon. Thanks for everyone's support.



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Spread your healing wings over all who are in need of your love and care. Lessen pain, lower fear, and heal bodies, minds, and souls, especially for... Samantha, Julie, Milt, Charlotte, Steve, Barbara, Anna Mae, Lee, Logan, Dom, Debbie, Kim, Albert, Kristin, Jason, Pam, Virginia, Misty, Matthew, Rachel, Pat, Randy, Eddie, Tom, John, Mark, Kelly, Mike, Nancy, Jim, Donna, Barb, John, Michelle, Lynn, Carol Jean and the John Straka Family, Shawndel, Rob, Fran's family, Janelle and family, Jeanette and family, the Miller, Paulick, Galano, Burchesky, Mele, Richmond, Porter and Johnson families, all military members and their families, our Bishops, our Synod, our PLUM pastors and members of St. Paul's. Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

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...Logan Billingham, Andrew Cowser, Gina Cowser, Eleanor Marie Cregut, Ava Jade Englehart, Austin Filby, Joelle Filby, Clarke Johnson, Larry Ryan Johnson, Gregory McGrail, Lindsey Nimal, Josh Porter, Jaxon Porter, Jordyn Porter, Aaliyah Gilpin, Adalae Carmichael. Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.



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

- October 10 – Pastor Liz Mayforth
- October 17 – Pastor Brenda Henry
- October 24 - Pastor Sue Devine
- October 31 - Pastor Sue Devine



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- October 6 – Greg McGrail
- October 9 – Karen Billingham
- October 13 – Deana McGrail
- October 13 – Jim Filby
- October 22 – Sammie Jo Richmond



Eternal Candle –Month of October

- Karen Billingham & Logan Billingham

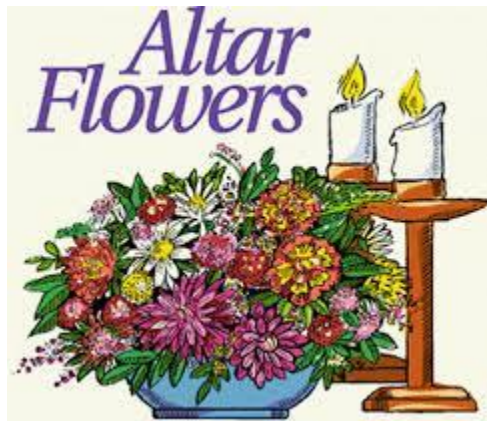
Eternal Candle –Month of November

- Mike, Carol, Corey Ferens

Eternal Candle –Month of December

- Ann Morrocco

If you would like to sponsor the eternal candle for the month of October, please notify Ann Morrocco, 724-746-5897 or amorocco1@verizon.net. Donation is \$25.00. Put your check/money, your name and envelope number in the envelope and place in the collection plate.



Altar Flowers

- October 10 – Shawndel Kelley
- October 17 – Mark & Nancy Pollo
- October 24 –
- October 31 – Karen & Logan Billingham

Please sign the flower chart next to the front door if you are interested in donating flowers to celebrate a special date/event. The donation is \$25.00 for two urns and the flowers can be taken home after the service. Please notify Ann Morrocco, 724-746-5897 or amorocco1@verizon.net if you want the names/events you would like printed in the bulletin.



McWilliams Lawn Care Service has again been contracted to maintain our lawns this summer. The cost is \$45.00 per visit. If you wish to donate to help with this service, place your contribution in an envelope and send to the church. Make sure to include your name and envelope number.

Assistants

- October 10 – Karen Billingham
- October 17 – Carol Ferens
- October 24 – Karen Billingham
- October 31 – Carol Ferens

Lectors

- October 10 – Carol Ferens
- October 17 – Mark Pollo
- October 24 – Lee Jones
- October 31 - Scott Latta

If you are interested in serving as an assistant please sign the signup sheets next to the flower chart. or notify Ann Morrocco; 724-746-5897; email: amorocco1@verizon.net.

John Edward Straka, 70, of McMurray, died Thursday, September 23, 2021. John was born June 18, 1951. Homegoing Service was held September 28, 2021. Our deepest sympathies to Carol Jean Straka and his family.

Well done, thou good and faithful servant.