

# CORNERSTONE

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July 2018

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

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

Volume 24, Issue 7

Grace and peace to you!

I am the newest member of the pastoral staff of PLUM, coming on board as a Transitional Interim. I thought it would be helpful to tell you a little about myself. I was born and raised in western Pennsylvania, and have been a life-long Lutheran. Attending Camp Lutherlyn as a youth and working there as a counselor was an important part of both my faith formation and my understanding of my vocation.

I received a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Grove City College and worked as a substitute teacher in music for school districts in Ohio and Pennsylvania. I also held the position of Director of Children’s and Youth Ministry at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Kittanning, PA. It was while I was working at St. John’s that I recognized a call to ordained ministry.

I served my internship year at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Beachwood, NJ and received my Master of Divinity from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now part of United Lutheran Seminary). I have served as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Barnegat Light, NJ and Trinity Lutheran Church in Freeport, PA. I served the NJ Synod as the Program Coordinator for Confirmation Camp, and as a member of the Hunger Team.

I have served our SWPA Synod as the chair of the Hunger Task Force and the Church in Society Committee, and as a representative on the Policy Council of LAMPA (Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA) and the Lutherlyn Board of Directors (currently in the position of Vice President).

My interests include reading, listening to music and podcasts, dog-sitting, knitting, sewing, cheering on the Steelers, Penguins, and Pirates, ice cream, coffee and craft beer, and traveling. Running is a big part of my life, and I volunteer with a few running organizations in the city. So far, I have completed nine half-marathons (13.1 miles) and eight full marathons (26.2 miles), and have qualified to run the Boston Marathon next year.

Thank you for welcoming me into the PLUM community! I look forward to working with and getting to know all of you!

Sincerely,  
*Pastor Jocelyn*



**IMPORTANT**  
**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Summer is usually a time of transition and this summer PLUM is experiencing transition. With the recent retirement of Pastor Beth and the addition of Pastor Jocelyn, a few changes have been made in the Pastoral Coverage for the summer. **Pastor Jocelyn Johnston will now be the Primary contact for St. Paul’s during the months of July and August. She can be reached at 216-926-**

**3841. If you have any questions concerning this, please contact Jill at 724-747-4418.**



Handbells are a lovely way to enhance a worship service or church event. For many years, Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church in Dormont had a handbell choir. Unfortunately, as members moved away, it became difficult to find new members and the choir had to disband.

Today, we are reaching out to all PLUM churches to see if there are any PLUM members who would like to join a combined PLUM Handbell Choir. This choir would meet for practices and then perform at joint PLUM events and specific individual church or community events. What a wonderful way for PLUM members to get to know each other better!

Some musical knowledge is helpful, but not necessary. We will teach you! No specific details for this choir have been decided yet. If you would like to be a part of a joint choir such as this, please contact Karen in the Church office (412-531-9363 or [bethany-dormont@verizon.net](mailto:bethany-dormont@verizon.net).)

We would love to get this musical group up and running once again. We hope you will join us in this endeavor.



The PLUM Picnic will be held on Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> at West Mifflin Park at 525 Bettis Road, West Mifflin. The location is the large pavilion at the front of the park. A picnic lunch will be served at 1:00 p.m. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided and everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share.

There will be an ingathering of canned goods to be donated for emergency distribution. Invite a friend to join your brothers and sisters from PLUM for good food, fellowship, games and worship.



The PLUM Board Meeting will be held on Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at Bethany Lutheran Church in Bethel Park. The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m.



The first annual P.L.U.M. mission project this year will be in conjunction with the faith-based organization "Rise Against Hunger" to host a meal packaging event. This event will be held on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 a.m.-Noon at Christ Lutheran Church in Duquesne. There will be assembly-line packaging of highly nutritious dehydrated meals comprised of rice, soy, vegetables and 23 essential vitamins and minerals. 10,152 meals will be packed that will be sent to school feeding programs around the world, medical clinics, child growth and development centers, elder care and crisis and disaster centers.

Each PLUM congregation has been asked to donate \$250.00 to help raise the \$3,000 needed to prepare our goal of 10,152 meals (cost is 29 cents to package each meal). There is also a need for at least 40-50 people to help package the meals. A group of able-bodied people are needed to be at Christ at 9:30 a.m. to help unload the trucks and set up the fellowship hall. The actual meal packaging will take place 10:30 a.m. – Noon following the unloading. Children are definitely welcomed and encouraged to be part of this wonderful project. If you can commit to being present at this event, there

will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the rear of the Sanctuary or contact Jill. Together the churches within P.L.U.M. can make a difference in combatting world hunger as our hands and mission unite to do God's work. More information can be found on the bulletin board.



### **29<sup>TH</sup> SYNOD ASSEMBLY JUNE 14-16 2018**

This year's theme was "Who Is My Neighbor". There were approximately 290 Registered from the Southwestern PA Synod, and 175 from the Northwestern Synod.

**Thursday morning** was registration and then Opening Liturgy. Pastor Liz Mayforth, PLUM, was the Assembly Chaplain and believe me when I tell you that the Holy Spirit was with Pastor Mayforth and everyone in the Passavant Center each time that she prayed and preached. Her version of Fred Roger's sound strategy and message of love and kindness while sharing the gospel (Fred liked to say "I like you just the way you are") brought life to her style of preaching and her sermons came to life, whether we were laughing or crying.

**Thursday afternoon** we heard from Dr. Susan Traverso, Thiel College President; Report of the Committee on Nominations; Voting orientation; Presentation of the Budget for 2019; Report of the Bishop; Report of the Committee on the Bishop's Report; Report of the Vice President; Report of the Secretary; Report of the Treasurer; Report of the Synod Council; Ballot One as follows: Panel 1 - Voting Members to the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly who have not previously served as a CWA voting member. Elected - (Laywoman) – Kathye Schaeffer; (Layman) – Erik Nordby; (Layman, Youth) – Graeson Nordby. Ministers of Word and

Sacrament – Pastor James V. Arter III and Pastor Matthew Stabe. Panel 2 - Voting Members to the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly who have or have not previously served as CWA voting members. Elected - (Laywoman) – Amy Santoriello; (Laymen) – Dennis Lane and Jacob S. Zaffuto. (Layperson of Color or Primary Language other than English) – Brenda Henry; (Laywoman) – Young Adult – Jamie Ulrich – Ministers of Word and Sacrament – Pastor Christina A. Hough, Pastor Margarethe Galbraith-Cordes and Pastor Jonathan "JJ" Lynn. Also elected to Lutheran SeniorLife Board of Directors, Minister of Word and Sacrament – Pastor Peggy Suhr-Barkley and Laypersons, Jeannette Christensen and Dr. Eric Kofmehl. Pastor Jonathan "JJ" Lynn was elected to Lutheran Service Society, Board of Directors and Susan Sabol and Alex Covi were elected to Ohio Valley Lutheran Bible Camp Association – Camp Agape Board of Directors. Rachelle Fritz was elected as Synod Council Representative – Conference Two, Layperson. Nominated to run for ELCA Church Council at the 2019 ELCA gathering were Minister of Word and Sacrament – Pastor Jocelyn Johnston, Jennifer McCurry, and Pastor William A. Schaefer. After elections, Keynote Address by Mikka McCracken, ELCA Mission Advancement, Director of World Hunger Planning and Management dinner; entertainment by Abraham Jam and Compline (David Johnson Memorial Chapel).

**Friday morning** – SW and NW PA Synods of the ELCA Morning Prayer. Report on Ballot One; Ballot Two; Reports of Ministry Partners; Report of the Three-Synod Gift Planner; Report of the Synodical Unit of the Women of the ELCA; Presentations of Seminarians and Ordinands; Recognition of Pastors and Deacons Observing Special Anniversaries; Report on Ballot Two; Lunch.

**Friday afternoon** Recognition of Pastors and Deacons Observing Special Anniversaries (cont.); Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel; Report of the Committee on Memorials. Resolution, as Amended, presented as follows:

Be it resolved that, after consultation of the ELCA Global Mission staff on the best way to distribute funds, a donation in the amount of \$5,000 to the Madagascar Synod to support rebuilding churches, blind schools and other humanitarian recovery efforts after the cyclones of 2017 & 2018 be made from the SWPA Synod using investment income from Congregation Legacy Fund in fulfillment of the first stated purpose of the Congregation Legacy Fund which is to preserve the memory of the Congregations who have ended their ministries and honor their ministries on behalf of their neighbors. Resolution, as amended, was approved. Forums 1, 2, 3, Dinner.

**Friday evening** - 7:30 P.M. Festive Eucharist, A Service of Affirmation of Vocation. This year's assembly was the most exciting ever from the time that the Assembly Chaplain, Pastor Liz Mayforth approached the stage, bringing the gospel message to us through this year's theme "Who is My Neighbor". This service was attended by approximately 400 people. God was there! How often do we get to do Affirmation of Vocation? Pastor Mayforth had a different Fred Rogers T-Shirt on every day, hand puppets, and finally she brought David McFeeley, age 79, a close friend and the "Speedy Delivery" man on the Fred Roger's program. David brought a clip about a young child in the wheelchair (approximately age 6) who told Fred about his handicap. Of course you know that Fred said "he liked him just the way he was". Many years later Fred Rogers was given a special award by the Academy Awards and surprised Fred with the presence of this same child, now a young man, still in his wheelchair. This young man never forgot their first meeting so Fred invited him to the podium when his award was presented to him. As David was trying to bring his dialog about Fred to an end, Pastor Melba escorted a woman holding a beautiful baby to the stage. The baby's name was Corey, born with a genetic disorder. This baby was abandoned by his parents. The story that Pastor Liz told us was unbelievable and there was not a dry eye in the

house. The foster mother adopted Corey so God was with Corey and the Holy Spirit was very busy during this Assembly. Our past Bishop McCoid, wife, daughter and grandson were also present at the Assembly. He will be going to the inner city of New York for his next ministry and the Synod adopted a resolution to pray him and his wife as they undertake this ministry. 9:30 P.M. Reception/Social Hour.

**Saturday morning** – Morning Prayer; Keynote Address by Rev. Liddy Barlow, Executive Minister of Christian Associates of SWPA; Report of the Synod Council, including 2019 Budget. As always there was a lengthy discussion of the 2019 Budget. In 2018 the budget has a deficit of \$173,000. That money was taken from the Legacy Fund. The projection for that fund is less than 5 years. The Synod is actively soliciting a new Treasurer. Our Interim Treasurer was retired; the new Treasurer had to resign due to a personal issue, so the retired Treasurer is back to work. Please submit anyone that would be qualified and/or interested in this position. The 2019 Budget was approved.

Report of the Synod World Hunger Task Force; Report of the Youth Convocation; Commissioning of Those Attending National Youth Gathering; Report of the Committee on Resolutions; Closing Worship; Installation of Synod Council; Order for the Closing of the Synod Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Morrocco  
St. Paul's Layperson Voting Member



Our Christian sympathy to family of Mike Ferens. Mike's mom passed away on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Remember to keep them in your prayer during this difficult time.

## July Assistants and Sponsors



### Acolyte

- July 1 – Diamond Dibble
- July 8
- July 15
- July 22 – Diamond Dibble
- July 29

### Assisting Minister

- July 1 – Jill A. Shook
- July 8 – Carol Ferens
- July 15 – Ann Morrocco
- July 22
- July 29

### Eternal Candle

- Charlotte Stemmler

### Flowers

- July 1 – John Straka
- July 8 – Jill A. Shook
- July 15
- July 22
- July 29 – Charlotte Stemmler

### Lector

- July 1 – John Straka
- July 8 – Carol Ferens
- July 15 – Carol Jean Straka
- July 22 – Mark Pollo
- July 29 – Ann Morrocco

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](mailto:stpaulscbg@verizon.net).

## Worship Schedule

July 1	Rev. Melba Dibble
July 8	Seminarian Sue Devine
July 15	Rev. Liz Mayforth
July 22	Rev. Melba Dibble
July 29	Seminarian Sue Devine

**Pastor's schedule is subject to change without notice.**



Josh Porter, Sr.  
Zach Layton

July 12  
July 27



Ev, Sharlene, Anna Mae, Mark, Virginia, Albert, Jim, Eric, Patty, Joyce, Dan, George, Edward, Randy, Ann, Lee, Jim, Christine, Anita, Rich, Faith, Anna Mae, the Richmond Family, Rose, Laura, Andy, Tyler, Jim, Carol, Michelle, Dr. Wolfson, our Bishops, our Synod, our PLUM pastors and members and our church. If anyone should be added or removed, please contact the church office (724-745-5962) or email: [stpaulscbg@verizon.net](mailto:stpaulscbg@verizon.net).



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.