

CORNERSTONE

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

June 2018

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

Volume 24, Issue 6

Dear Partners in Ministry,

I remember it as clearly as if it happened yesterday. I was walking home after the last day of second grade. There was such excitement as the realization sank in that summer vacation had begun. The kids around me were giddy with excitement. I, on the other hand, was having a hard time walking away from that last day which was filled with goodbyes and into the future of summer freedom. I was sad at the thought that I was leaving behind my teacher, Mrs. Duff, *and* I was uneasy at the thought that my life was changing, never to be exactly the same. Third grade was a long way off and there I was experiencing what I later understood to be a “transition”.

Transitions are like that, filled with mixed feelings: the melancholy, at leaving familiar things and people behind and the anticipation, with its mixture of apprehension and excitement, at the possibilities ahead.

We’ve all been there multiple times. Whether it was a transition from elementary school to middle school, high school to the larger world, from single to married life, from pregnancy to parenthood, from a house full of children to an empty nest, from an old job to a new job or worse, unemployment, from health to chronic illness, or from one’s life’s work to retirement - life is full of transitions and the changes they bring.

We can and often do live out our daily lives in denial that life is filled with an endless stream of transitions. We convince ourselves that at a certain point in our life’s journey major transitions will be

behind us and there will be nothing but smooth, familiar sailing ahead.

As a former amateur sailor, sailing doesn’t work that way as winds often change direction and storms spring up suddenly. Life doesn’t work that way either. Transitions and the changes they bring are always just around the corner until that time arrives when we face the greatest transition of all and walk with our Lord through the gate of death to eternal life.

That’s why I love all of the biblical stories of God’s faithful people as they faced transitions: Abram and Sarai, Joseph and his brothers, Moses and Joshua, Ruth, Naomi and Esther, David and Solomon, Mary and Joseph, Jesus at his baptism and the disciples awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit.

That last example has always held a certain fascination for me. . It’s the story that we recall every year on the 7th Sunday of Easter. That Sunday is a day of transition, sitting as it does between the events of Jesus’ ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

There sit the followers of Jesus. They’ve experienced the risen presence of Jesus and, after watching him disappear from their sight, they are left with one instruction; to wait in Jerusalem for the promised Holy Spirit. All 120 of them are in a state of transition with nothing but Jesus’ promise to go on. It wasn’t easy for them. For one thing they were hanging out in hostile territory. Peter, feeling the need to provide some direction and leadership, had them carry out an election to replace Judas. Then together they hung in there and faithfully waited with prayer and thanksgiving until Jesus’ promise was fulfilled in spectacular fashion on Pentecost.

Now you and I are about to move through an important transition in our PLUM ministry. From the early days of PLUM we pastors have considered the process of transitioning the pastoral team as an additional benefit of our cooperative ministry. Pastoral vacancies are hard enough for larger congregations to endure but for small congregations they are especially difficult. Having a pastoral team meant that the turnover of pastors could happen in rotation so as to insure there would always be familiar faces to provide pastoral care.

As of July 1st, I will be the first pastor to transition off the team as I begin my retirement and head to my new home in Erie, PA. I am happy to report that, with the support and recommendation of Bishop Kusserow and his staff, we are adding a new full-time pastor, the Rev. Jocelyn Johnston, to the team as a Transitional Interim Pastor. Pastor Johnston is excited about working with PLUM and will come on board in June so that you can begin to get to know her. Initially, she will have a contractual call with PLUM which provides the option of receiving a permanent, full-time call in the future. We are very pleased by the ongoing presence of our Minister-in-Training, Brenda Henry, who will be busy this summer completing her Clinical Pastoral Education requirement for ordination and then will rejoin the worship rotation in August as she begins her internship. Also, we are looking forward to Seminarian Susan Devine starting her internship with PLUM in January 2019. The future looks bright!

However, as with all transitions, this one is bittersweet. I will miss all of you and our ministry together but I know I am leaving you in the good hands of Pastors John, Melba, Jocelyn and Paul. So as we move through this time of transition, I, to retirement, and you, to a reconfiguration of your pastoral team, let us with thanksgiving pray for one another. And keep in mind those disciples in the upper room waiting with prayer and thanksgiving for the promised Holy Spirit to make an appearance. Unlike them, **we have** the guiding and empowering presence of the Holy Spirit to see us through.

It's true, my friends, transitions aren't easy but rest assured, God's hand prints are all over this one!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Beth



A Retirement Event will be held for Pastor Beth on Sunday, June 24th at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mt. Oliver. A worship service will begin at 4:00 p.m. with the Rev. Melissa Stoller, Assistant to the Bishop preaching. Following worship there will be a dinner and program. Plan now to join the congregations of PLUM as we offer our appreciation, congratulations and best wishes to Pastor Beth. If you are planning on attending you must let Jill know by June 10th. A sign-up sheet is on the desk in Eberle Hall.



Bethany Lutheran Church, Bethel Park will be hosting their Annual Strawberry Social on Wednesday, June 13, 2018 from 5:00-7:00 P.M. Price is \$9.00 for seniors and \$5.00 for children ten and under. Included in the price are one entrée (Ham BBQ, Bratwurst or Hot Dog), two sides (assorted homemade salads), dessert (Strawberry Shortcake) and beverage. Extra sides may be purchased for \$1.00 each, extra sandwich for \$4.00 and extra dessert for \$3.00. Proceeds benefit BLCW Mission Fund that supports various charities.



The Stewardship/Mission Committee, along with the Thrivent Financial Dollars (\$250.00), sponsored the Canonsburg Food Bank Bag Lunch Event, located in the Canonsburg United Presbyterian Church May 19 from 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. Jill Shook and Ann Morrocco went shopping for all of the staples on Thursday and Friday. The 180 lunch bags which consisted of one drink; one sandwich; one bag of Lay's assorted snacks; one cookie; one fruit snack; one magnet ornament were prepared on Friday. The committee wishes to thank Jill Shook, Milt and Charlotte Stemmler, Rose Aslanian, Nancy Pollo, Jennifer, Joshua, Jaxon Porter, Samantha Mrvos for their assistance in preparing and distributing the lunches on Friday and Saturday. Thank you also to Markus Solobay who baked the cookies for us. A special thank you to the youth and adults that colored the magnets that went in every bag. They were Addie Carmichael, Aiysha Dibble, Diamond Dibble, Josh, Jaxon and Jennifer Porter, Ann Morrocco, On Saturday, Milt, Rose, Samantha, Jennifer, Josh, Jaxon, Ann and Jill went to the Food Bank location from 8:00 –12:00. Bookmarks were passed out that included the name, address, telephone number of St Paul's. People were invited to St. Paul's; given God's blessing, even assistance to one Food Bank member that was a stroke victim by Joshua and Jaxon because she could not help herself. The presence of the Holy Spirit was truly with all of during those three days and we pray that others will have the same opportunity the next time.



Lutheran Day at Kennywood

Lutheran Day at Kennywood will be held on Tuesday, July 24th. The price for an all-day ticket will be \$25.00 (\$16.00 off the regular admission of \$41.99). Proceeds from the ticket sales will go to the ELCA World Hunger Global Barn Yard. The gates open at 9:30 a.m. Welcome and Morning Prayer will be at 11:30 a.m. in the Old Log Jammer and Whip Pavilion (Pavilion 23). There will be a Global Barn Yard Scavenger Hunt! Deadline for ticket orders is Sunday, June 24th. See Jill with your order and payment.



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.)

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



The June Monthly Mission is the Seminarian Development and Support Fund. At the present time there are 10 individuals from our synod that are currently in the candidacy process leading to serving the church of ministers of word and sacrament or word and service. Training for rostered ministers includes seminary study, clinical pastoral education and internship. Candidates often begin building a library for Biblical and theological study as they proceed toward approval, while at the same time caring for spouses and families and serving the church in various ways. Your contribution to this fund will be appreciated by those who are seeking to serve the church. Special envelopes can be found on the table in the rear of the Sanctuary. Make sure to include your name and envelope number on your contribution.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS HOLY LAND TRIP 2019

Anyone interested in learning more about the May 6-15, 2019 Holy Land Trip is invited to Bethany Lutheran Church in Bethel Park on Sunday, June 3rd. at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Tony Abuaita of Good Shepherd Travel will be there to answer your questions. There will also be lunch and a power point of the January 2018 trip. The price for the trip is \$3,290.00 and departure is from Philadelphia. Pastor Melba is organizing the tour. Spread the word and bring a friend. The RSVP to Pastor Melba at 412-212-8794 or mtdibble@gmail.com



Our last Church Directory was published in 2013. A lot has changed since then and it is time to do an update to that directory. Please complete the information below and return to the church as soon as possible. (Even if you do not have changes, please fill out a form and return it.) If you have children under the age of 16 please list them with your family. If they are 16 or over, they should complete their own form. If you are not a member of St. Paul's, and wish to be included, make sure to fill out all the information. Deadline for church directory updates is June 24th.

Name _____

Spouse
Name _____

Children (under 16)

Mailing Street
Address _____

City, State, Zip
code _____

Home phone
number _____

Cell phone
number _____

Email
address _____

Would you like to receive your newsletter and any other mailings by email?

Yes _____

No _____

June Assistants and Sponsors



Acolyte

- June 3 – Joshua Porter
- June 10 – Diamond Dibble
- June 17
- June 24

Assisting Minister

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

Eternal Candle

- Anna Mae Kostelich

Fellowship

- June 3 – Jill A. Shook
- June 10 – Ann Morrocco
- June 17 – FATHER'S DAY –no fellowship
- June 24 – The Ferens family

Flowers

- June 3 – Charlotte Stemmler
- June 10 – Ruth Latta
- June 17 – John and Carol Jean Straka
- June 24 – Anna Mae Kostelich

Lector

- June 3 – Jill A. Shook
- June 10 - Charlotte Stemmler
- June 17 – John E. Straka
- June 24 – Mark Pollo

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.

Worship Schedule

June 3	Rev. Paul Koch
June 10	Rev. Donna Van Eck
June 17	Rev. Liz Mayforth
June 24	Rev. Jocelyn Johnston

Pastor's schedule is subject to change without notice.



Rev. Melba Dibble	June 3
Stephanie Richmond	June 8
Austin Filby	June 9
Natasha (Kelley) Johnson	June 9
Carol Ferens	June 17
Carol Jean Straka	June 18
John Straka	June 18
Rob Mrvos	June 25
Rev. Dona Van Eck	June 26



Ev, Sharlene, Anna Mae, Mark, Virginia, Margaret, Albert, Jim, Eric, Patty, Joyce, Dan, George, Edward, Randy, Ann, Lee, Jim, Christine, Anita, Rich, Faith, Anna Mae, Holly, the Richmond Family, Rose, Laura, Andy, Tyler, Jim, Carol, Michelle, 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.

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.