

CORNERSTONE

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

March 2018

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

Volume 24, Issue 3



Dear Partners in Ministry,

Changes are happening so quickly I’m dizzy just trying to get a handle on all of them. I just heard that they are going to quit selling CD’s now because the only people buying them are middle aged and older! I guess that means I’m going to finally have to figure out iTunes and all that other “internet streaming” if I want to listen to music. And here I am afraid to hit the subscribe button on my iPhone when I’m checking out a show I missed on T.V. because I don’t know if I’ll be accidentally signing up for something I’ll have to pay for!! I’ve turned into a complete dinosaur and I don’t know when it happened?!

Obviously, I’ve lost my grip when it comes to understanding the rapidly changing culture around me. So what does that say about my ability to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ or provide leadership for congregations the ministry of which is to make relevant to people’s lives the good news of God’s faithful, steadfast, abiding, saving, life-transforming (life-changing!), love? What does that say about our church communities that are steeped in traditional thinking and practice and our ability to respond to the currents of change around us? What does it mean for our congregations whose populations are predominantly older? Is there hope that we can change our approach to ministry in a way that will speak to younger generations?

These questions and more have been on the minds of church leaders both ordained and lay for a long time but now with increasing urgency. How do we address the need for change within our congregations? How do we work together to make decisions about what things are appropriate and necessary to change and what aren’t? How do we address this unprecedented rate of cultural change in a way that is faithful to the Gospel, uses the language and tools of the world around us and helps our communities of faith deal with the discomfort of doing new things?

These questions and more will be the subject of a special event sponsored by our Synod’s Resource Center which I would like to invite as many members of our PLUM congregations as possible to attend. (Full disclosure: I am a Board member of the Resource Center and have helped organize this event.) I know I’m not the only one whose head is spinning, trying to figure out how to get a handle on the rate at which our world is changing and what ministry tools we need to adopt as we seek to fulfill our mission as followers of Christ. So here’s the information for all of you who are feeling as I do me and want help navigating these chaotic currents of change for Christ’s sake.

Pastor Beth

Heading into Uncharted Territory

Without Google Maps:

Congregations Navigating Change

Saturday, April 14, 9:00 am-3 pm

Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church

517 Sangree Rd.

Pittsburgh, PA.

Goal of the Gathering: Our communities are changing around us. Some congregations feel helpless, if not completely immobilized. Others shout, "We're ready! Help us lead into this new frontier well!" Maybe you and your congregation fall somewhere in between. The ultimate goal of our time together is to leave the event with a specific action plan for your congregation!

The guest speaker and facilitator is **The Rev. David Daubert**, an ELCA pastor, consultant for faith based organizations on emergent planning for nimble ways of working in today's world *and* author of The Invitational Church.

Cost is \$20.00 per person or Groups of 5 only \$75 which includes lunch and a copy of The Invitational Church. Deadline: April 5

Call PLUM's Administrative Assistant Deann George (412-466-7773) by April 3 to give her your name or the names of those from your congregation who will be attending in order to register groups of 5 for the discount. She will handle registration and help arrange transportation issues, if any.



From the desk of Pastor Melba

Holy Week! Why do I want to go to church four times??!!

The week begins with Palm Sunday (The Sunday of the Passion) where we have palms, long readings and shout "Hosanna" as we hear the crowds shout "Crucify Him!"

Then we return for Maundy Thursday – we have long confessions, individual blessings, washing of the feet (anointing of our hands), communion and we

strip the altar while reading Psalm 22. That service is a bit long but pretty cool.

But then, Good Friday?! This night we experience the death of our Savior. It is a dark, sad – but happy service. We gather this day to celebrate our Lord's sacrifice on the cross for us.

Saturday night is the Easter Vigil where we walk through the pages of the Bible to the death and then.... (wait for it)...His Resurrection! We walk through the dark from the tomb into the bright light of Easter.

And if that isn't enough, we go to church on Sunday morning for Easter.

SO WHY DO I HAVE TO GO TO CHURCH ALL WEEK!

Other than, Holy Week is the most important week in the entire Church year.

Other than, this is the week to see how Christ's Death and Resurrection fixes your soul, raises your spirit, points out how much Jesus loves us and just how far he would go to save our sorry lives. If that doesn't convince you, then how about this:

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time, I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for almost 30 years now.

"In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals."

"But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals."

"But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work."

"If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today." "Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today."

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL, YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL!

B.I.B.L.E. simply means: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!

Praying you will join us for Holy Week.

Pastor Melba



We will begin Holy Week with the celebration of Palm Sunday at 11:15 a.m. There will be loud Hosannas sung at the beginning of the service during the Processional. The Passion of our Lord according to Mark will be read throughout the service. Rev. Dr. Paul Koch will preside.



MAUNDY
Thursday

Maundy Thursday worship will be held at St. Paul's beginning at 7:00 p.m. The service will include Confession and Laying on of Hands for Absolution and Hand Washing. There will be Holy Communion and the service will conclude with the Stripping of the Altar. Brenda Henry will be presiding.



A Community Good Friday Worship service will be held at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in McMurray, PA beginning at NOON. All are invited to attend. Our Good Friday service will begin at 7:00 p.m. The Gospel according to John will be read. Rev. Donna Van Eck will be presiding.



An Easter Vigil will be held on Saturday, March 31 beginning at 7:00 p.m. This is a PLUM sponsored service and it will be held at Messiah In Munhall. Following the service there will be a Fellowship time.



Celebrate the Risen Savior at the Easter Sunrise Service at Woodruff Memorial Park on Route 19 beginning at 7:00 a.m. This service is being hosted by Beinbauer Family Funeral Homes and Woodruff Memorial Park. This is a community-wide inter-denominational sunrise service. Refreshments will follow the service.



Our celebration of the Risen Christ will begin on Easter Sunday worship at 11:15 a.m. Rev. Liz Mayforth will be presiding

“First, We Give of Ourselves:

“Giving in Grace”

How do you give in grace? This is the question we have been exploring at St. Paul’s. It is a question of discipleship and stewardship. It is a question that asks us to stop for a moment and consider why we give of our time, talents, spiritual gifts, and financial resources.

The Apostle Paul, in 2 Corinthians 8:5 describes the spiritual center of our giving. In describing the generosity of the Macedonian Christians, he says: “...they first gave themselves to the Lord.” Our giving, in whatever form, is the giving of ourselves as a response to God’s grace in Christ. “Giving in Grace” is the joyful sharing of what has been given to us through God’s abundant generosity.

There are two foundational reasons why we give.

- The first reason is that our giving in grace is a response to God’s gift of grace in Christ. It is a joyful and thankful response of delight for God’s rich gift to us.
- The second reason for our giving is that our ministries of St. Paul’s can continue to boldly grow in the proclamation of this gift of grace. “Giving in Grace” is sharing gifts in order that lives can be touched with the love and grace of God in Christ.

This Spring, each member at St. Paul’s is being asked to consider why you give and how you might grow in your giving. Each member is asked to pray about what it might mean to first give of yourself and to give in grace.

As a guide to growth in financial giving, members at St. Paul’s are invited to consider the tithe or 10% of one’s income as a joyful response to God’s life changing gift of grace. If this is something that will need some time to grow into, an invitation is extended to grow your present giving by 10%. In other words, if you are presently giving \$50 per week, an increase of 10% would be \$55 per week. Our Commitment Sunday is March 18th. Over these next few weeks, please enter into a time of prayer of

how you can give of yourself, give in grace, and grow in sharing your gifts in response to God’s own giving, in Christ, of a life transforming grace for you.

Serving Together in Christ,

Jill A. Shook



The Easter Vigil will be held on Saturday, March 31st at Messiah Lutheran Church in Munhall. There will be all PLUM choir, under the direction of Jim Williams (Bethany Lutheran, Dormont) accompanied by Laura Carmichael (Christ Lutheran, Duquesne). There will be two anthems sung that evening. The rehearsals will be held on Saturday, March 24th at 4:00 and Saturday, March 31st. at 5:00. Both will be held at Messiah, Munhall and a light supper will be available between the rehearsal and the worship on March 31st. This is an opportunity for members who either miss being in a church choir or who want to sing. No previous experience is necessary.

Camp Agapè

Make plans to attend the Maple Syrup Festival at Camp Agape on Saturday, March 17th beginning at 10:00 a.m. There will be pancakes and sausage will be available all day with Agape’ syrup and also maple syrup snow candy. Learn how to make Maple Syrup, do a craft, go on a hayride or watch a chain saw sculptor. There will also be a presentation by Meadowcroft Village – “A Culinary history of Native Americans. This is a great opportunity for those who have not been to the camp in a while or never been there to see what see what the camp has to offer.

Growth in Giving Gift Chart

This chart is prepared for you to use as you prayerfully consider your financial gift to St. Paul's in 2019. Please remember that we give first as an expression of joy and thanksgiving for God's abundant grace in Christ. A second reason we give is that our ministries at St. Paul's might remain strong and bold in the proclamation of God's life giving grace in Christ.

Please find your current level of giving on the chart and prayerfully consider growing your gift by at least 10% this next year.

Present Giving Per Week	Growing 10 Percent	Growing 15 Percent	Growing 20 Percent
\$1.00	\$1.10	\$1.15	\$1.20
\$5.00	\$5.50	\$5.75	\$6.00
\$10.00	\$11.00	\$11.50	\$12.00
\$15.00	\$16.50	\$17.25	\$18.00
\$20.00	\$22.00	\$23.00	\$24.00
\$25.00	\$27.50	\$28.75	\$30.00
\$30.00	\$33.00	\$34.50	\$36.00
\$35.00	\$38.50	\$40.25	\$42.00
\$40.00	\$44.00	\$46.00	\$48.00
\$45.00	\$49.50	\$51.75	\$54.00
\$50.00	\$55.00	\$57.50	\$60.00
\$60.00	\$66.00	\$69.00	\$72.00
\$70.00	\$77.00	\$80.50	\$84.00
\$80.00	\$88.00	\$92.00	\$96.00
\$90.00	\$99.00	\$103.50	\$108.00
\$100.00	\$110.00	\$115.00	\$120.00
\$120.00	\$132.00	\$138.00	\$144.00
\$140.00	\$154.00	\$161.00	\$168.00
\$150.00	\$165.00	\$172.50	\$180.00
\$200.00	\$220.00	\$230.00	\$240.00



Easter Lilies

It is time to order Easter lilies to decorate our church for Easter Sunday. The price of a 4 or 5 bloom plant is \$7.00. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 25th and money is due by March 25th. . To order, fill out the information below and return either by placing in the offering plate or by mail. Checks should be made payable to the church.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please order \_\_\_\_\_ Easter lilies @ \$7.00 each.

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_



The Flower Chart for 2018 is on the bulletin board in the Narthex of the church. You can sign up at any time. If you do not attend church regularly and have any questions on dates remaining contact the church, 724-745-5962. The cost of two vases is either \$20.00 or \$25.00. Payment is due by the last Sunday of the month that you donate flowers.

## March Assistants and Sponsors



### Acolyte

- March 4 – Josh Porter
- March 11 – Diamond Dibble
- March 18
- March 25 – Logan Billingham

### Assisting Minister

- March 4 – Corey Ferens
- March 11 – Ann Morrocco
- March 18
- March 25 – Ann Morrocco
- March 29 – Jill A. Shook

### Eternal Candle

- Karen & Logan Billingham

### Fellowship

- March 4 – Jill A. Shook
- March 11 – Ruth Latta
- March 18 – Commitment Luncheon
- March 25

### Flowers

- March 4 – John Straka
- March 11
- March 18 – Carol Jean Straka
- March 25

### Lector

- March 4 – Carol Jean Straka
- March 11 – John Straka
- March 18 – Charlotte Stemmler
- March 25 – 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](mailto:stpaulscbg@verizon.net).

## Worship Schedule

|          |                    |
|----------|--------------------|
| March 4  | Rev. John Gropp    |
| March 11 | Sue Devine         |
| March 18 | Rev. Melba Dibble  |
| March 25 | Rev. Paul Koch     |
| March 29 | Brenda Henry       |
| March 30 | Rev. Donna Van Eck |

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



|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Anna Mae Kostelich | March 4  |
| Logan Billingham   | March 6  |
| Mike Ferens        | March 8  |
| Jill A. Shook      | March 9  |
| Ruth Latta         | March 14 |
| Elle Cowser        | March 19 |
| Shawndel Kelley    | March 20 |



Ev, Sharlene, Anna Mae, Mark, Virginia, Margaret, Albert, Jim, Eric, Patty, Joyce, Dan, George, Elinor, Edward, Randy, Mary Ann, Jim, Christine, Anita, Rich, Faith, Anna Mae, Holly, The Richmond Family, Rose, Laura, Andy, Tyler, Cathy 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).

## **Remember March 10**

