

CORNERSTONE

May 2018

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

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

Volume 24, Issue 5



“Don’t be afraid to believe in the visions God gives you and don’t be afraid to pursue them on behalf of God and God’s people.” -

Brian K. Blount

The quote above came from a sermon presented by Brian K. Blount on the occasion of the ordination of one of his students. Ordination was not on my “List of Things to Do Before I Die”. Being a pastor was not what I dreamed of being, when I was a little girl. As a matter of fact, I didn’t think much about God until I became an adult, with children of my own. And then, a funny thing happened - I found that I really enjoyed attending worship services and participating in church activities. I became close with my pastor, who encouraged me to think outside of the box when it came to worship planning and participation in the church. I am forever grateful to Pastor Carlton Howells for planting seeds that would grow - very slowly - but they would, indeed, grow.

It was about twenty years ago that I first dared to say the words, “I think I want to be a pastor”. But, like most people who have heard a call, I found many excuses to ignore that call: I had three children to raise, I had a spouse whose career came first, I am a woman, I am too old. Throughout the past twenty years, the vision of serving God in the role of pastor

kept teasing me. I kept using those excuses and, to be honest, I was afraid - afraid that I wasn’t smart enough, good enough, Christian enough. I was afraid that I wouldn’t be accepted by the Candidacy committee; that I wouldn’t be accepted into seminary. I was afraid to believe that God was truly calling me. Fast forward to two and a half years ago. I finally couldn’t deny that voice any more. I again said those words; “I think I want to be a pastor.” Thanks to the encouragement of Keith and all of the pastors, I began a five-year journey toward ordination. It was scary to be interviewed by the entire candidacy committee of the synod. It was very scary to start school again, after so many years. Honestly, it was scary to stand before all of you, in your congregations, and lead worship for the first time. You are all very kind, and I am blessed to have you on this journey with me. I am learning so much from all of you. God is good.

I find that I am becoming more confident on this journey, and I can see an ordination service in my future. While, at the beginning, it seemed like such a long time, the past two and a half years have flown by. In October, I received my Entrance decision from our synod. One step closer! At the end of this summer, I will have completed 20 of the 30 credits that I need to receive my master’s degree in Divinity. I have officially announced my intention to retire from Dollar Bank in January, 2019, when I will begin my internship. I am not afraid, anymore. I believe in this vision and I am pursuing it on behalf of God and His people.

What is your vision - for yourself, your congregation and for PLUM? Believe and Pursue!

Yours in Christ,

Sue Devine, Seminarian



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.



Our annual Congregational Dinner meeting will be held on Sunday, May 6, 2018 following the worship service. This will be a Covered Dish Dinner with the chicken and beverage provided by the church. There will be a sign-up sheet on the desk in Eberle Hall to indicate what you would like to bring and also how many are attending. Following dinner there will be time to discuss our 2017 Financial Statement, view reports from Pastor Melba and the various committees of the church. Mark this important date on your calendar **NOW** so can be at the meeting.

Camp Agapé

Traditional Bible Camp schedule is as follow:
Classic Resident and Day Camps (ages 8-15) will be held June 17-22. **An Art and Science Resident Camp** (ages 8-15) will be held from June 24-June 29. **Music, Art & Drama Resident Camp** (ages 8-15) will be held July 29-August 3. The following is

the schedule of Learning Camps: **Reading & Math Day Camps** (ages 5-8) are scheduled for July 8 – July 13, July 15-20 and July 22-27. **Reading and Math Resident Camps** (ages 5-8) are offered July 8-July 13, July 15-July 20 and July 23-28. **Reading and Math Resident and Day Camps** are designed for campers who are at, above or below their grade level in these subjects. New to the schedule is a **User Group Confirmation Camp**, July 1-3.

The details for each camp are as follows.

Resident Classic Camp (ages 8-15): Campers will enjoy camp favorites such as swimming, Bible study, cookouts, sleeping out, and much more. **Cost is \$290.00 per camper.** **Classic Day Camp (ages 5-8)**: Day campers arrive at 9:30 a.m. and leave at 4:00 p.m. Lunch and snacks are provided. Campers enjoy traditional camp activities and have the option of sleeping over Thursday night. **Cost is \$105.00 per camper.** **Resident Art & Science Camp**: the week is designed to help campers develop a greater appreciation for both art and science. Hands on projects will be created to help the campers gain a greater understanding of God's creation through Science. Camp begins on Sunday and concludes on Friday. **Ages 8-15, cost is \$290.00/camper.** **Resident Music, Art & Drama Camp**: This week is designed to give campers an opportunity to prepare for and present a musical drama. The final presentation will occur at Retreat and Learning Center at 6:00 p.m. on Friday after dinner at 5:30 p.m. User Group Confirmation Camp provides staff, facility, activities and meals for a congregation, or a group of congregations to do a three day confirmation camp.

More information or registration forms can be found in the Narthex or on the camp website:

www.campagpe.org.

Volunteers needed:

Camp Agapé' has scheduled the following work days for anyone who would like to volunteer to prepare the camp for the 2018 season. Tasks to be completed are fixing garden fence, cutting vines,

planting trees, planting a garden and fixing and painting tables and gardens. The workday begins at 9:00 a.m. and is scheduled for May 5th. Check the bulletin board for more details.



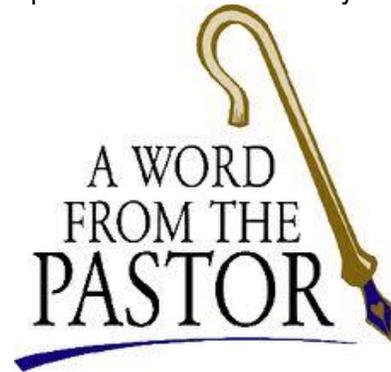
The Stewardship and Mission Committee plans to distribute 180 bag lunches at the Canonsburg Food Pantry on Saturday, May 19th. The funds needed for this project has been received from Thrivent Financial. There will be three teams involved in this outreach project: the team that purchases the food items, the team that makes the lunches and the team that will distribute the lunches. The Sunday school students will be involved by completing a picture or craft to include in each bag. Volunteers are needed. If you are interested in helping, please contact Ann Morrocco. More information will be available at the congregational meeting on May 6th.



Christ Lutheran Church will host a joint PLUM Service Project on Saturday, September 8th from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 a.m. All PLUM congregations and members are encouraged to participate. This project will be in conjunction with the "faith based" organization, "Rise Against Hunger". More information will be available in future newsletters and bulletins. Mark your calendar NOW to reserve the date.



Resurrection Lutheran Church will host an Election Day Spaghetti Dinner from 4:00-7:00 p.m. The cost is Adults, \$8.00 and Children under 12, \$4.00. Menu is Spaghetti with meatballs, tossed salad, rolls, coffee, tea and cold drinks. Baked goods will be available for purchase. Eat-in or Carry out.



Have you got a vision or dream of something great you'd like to accomplish? To do some great work for God? To be a missionary in some faraway land or even right in your home country perhaps?

Many plans are laid to accomplish great things but somehow... something goes wrong... The plans are just that.- plans - but never really get put into action. Why do you think this might be so?

There is one vital thing that many people overlook when seeking to accomplish a great work. And this, we will see from the wisdom of the spider in Proverbs 30:28. **"The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in king's palaces"** - Proverbs 30:28

What a huge contrast we see in this verse. The poor humble spider whose sole job is that of weaving her threads of silk, yet where is she living? She is in the royal courts of king's palaces!

Imagine that a new palace has just been built. Yet no spider has taken her abode in those lofty courts. Now outside, on ground level, a spider stands surveying the high towering walls above, and considers the wonderful living quarters that must surely exist over those turrets. If you were to scale

yourself down the size of the spider, looking up at the towering walls, how hopeful would you be of getting inside the palace?

It seems like an almost impossible feat! However, does the spider despair? Does it stop to try and work out some complex difficult method of catapulting itself over the walls and shortly landing right in the king's palace? No, without taking shortcuts, the spider simply takes hold with her hands and does the work that lies nearest. Day by day she patiently toils spinning her web and inch by inch the goal comes closer.

Eventually after much toil she reaches the top of the wall and drops over into the courts below. A great task accomplished that previously, could almost have been impossible!

As with this humble creature, so it should be in our lives. If God has given us a vision, some great work to accomplish, let's take hold of this work with our hands and do the tasks that lie nearest. By perseverance and patient toil, we too will be able to accomplish things that previously would have been impossible.

As we prove faithful to do the smallest and humblest tasks, God can then trust us with greater responsibilities, and greater tasks.

So, whatever tasks the Lord sees fit to place before us, whatever work He has called us to do let's not seek to run ahead or to take shortcuts, but like the spider, bit by bit, day by day, faithfully do the work that lies nearest, always pressing toward the end goal. We are promised divine aid and strength as we take one day at a time. "The faithful discharge of today's duties will be the best preparation for tomorrow's trials. We will not gather together all tomorrow's liabilities and cares to add unto the burdens of today. Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof. God gives us strength for each day" -- *Ellen White, Letter 141, Jan. 30, 1896*

Proverbs tells us of "**four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise:**" And in the next few verses we found out that these four things are the:

Ants

Badgers

Locusts

Spider (some translations say lizard)

The Ants work hard, and bring in food for the winter. From them, we learn not to be idle; we learn to prepare ourselves for the temptations, trials and tasks of the day by taking time to spend with God and receive strength and wisdom from Him.

Badgers are feeble, but they make their homes among the rocks, and are always watching for danger. We are to realize our weakness and danger and ever be on the watch lest Satan gain vantage over us. We are to make our refuge in Christ, for He is our rock and our safety.

The locusts are a dread to humanity for though they be small, in short order they destroy so much! Where lies their strength? In unity! So, with us, if we are united, laying aside selfish interest and working together, how much may we accomplish for Christ!

The spider might be small, but by taking hold of the work that was nearest, it found its self in "king's palaces". If we take up and accomplish the work that is nearest to us; if we are faithful to do the little and humblest tasks; it is then that God can trust us with greater responsibilities, and greater tasks.

Dear reader, let's learn from these four "**little**" things that are "**exceeding wise**". Apply each principle to your life, pray to God for the needed strength and you will be mightily blessed.

Christ's Blessing upon all of you,

Pastor Melba Dibble



The last Sunday for Sunday school classes for the youth will be Sunday, May 27th. Classes will resume the beginning of September. Happy Summer. See you in church

Church Directory

UPDATE



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. 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.

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 _____

Seminarian Sue Devine has invited PLUM congregations to participate in a project of collecting toys for Children's Hospital. The project is "Natty Bug's Birthday Bash" and was started in memory of Natalia "Natty Bug" LaPenna, a young patient at the hospital who passed away in 2016 due to Cardiac Arrest just 10 days before her 2nd birthday. The family donated Natty Bug's Radio Flyer wagon and all her Birthday toys to Children's, and have continued to donate Radio Flyer wagons and toys every May in Natty's memory. Items requested (New toys only): Red Flyer wagons,(plastic and still in box); Legos, Play Dough, Blocks, Xbox games, Earbuds, games, Little People play sets, Paw Patrol etc. Any toy will be appreciated. All donations need to be at the church by May 13th. Any questions, ask Jill.



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.



Make plans now to attend church on Sunday, May 20th. Not only is it Pentecost Sunday (remember to wear **RED**), but Rev. Beth Siefert will be leading us in worship. Because of her upcoming Retirement at the end of June, this is the last time she will be presiding at St. Paul's. Come and wish her a Happy Retirement.



May Assistants and Sponsors

Acolyte

- May 6
- May 13 – Joshua Porter
- May 20
- May 27 – Diamond Dibble

Assisting Minister

- May 6 – Corey Ferens
- May 13 – Jill A. Shook
- May 20 – Ann Morrocco
- May 27 – Carol Ferens

Eternal Candle

- Ann Morrocco

Fellowship

- May 6 – Congregational Dinner Meeting
- May 13 – Mother's Day – no fellowship
- May 20 – St. Paul's
- May 27 – No fellowship

Flowers

- May 6
- May 13 – Jill A. Shook
- May 20 – Mark & Nancy Pollo
- May 27 – Lee Jones

Lector

- May 6 – Carol Ferens
- May 13 – Mark Pollo
- May 20 – Lee Jones
- May 27 – John Straka

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

May 6 – Rev. Melba Dibble
 May 13 – Sue Devine
 May 20 – Rev. Beth Siefert
 May 27 – Rev. Liz Mayforth

Pastor's schedule is subject to change without notice.



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Cindy Nimal	May 7
Mark Pollo	May 9
Pastor John Gropp	May 14
Josh Layton	May 17
Chuck Nimal	May 18
Pastor Beth Siefert	May 20
Pastor Paul Koch	May 29
Lee Jones	May 30
Mike Richmond	May 31



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



Our Vacation Bible School program that was scheduled for June has been cancelled. Plans for a 1, 2 or 3 day program are being considered. Watch your email, newsletters or bulletins for updates.