

CORNERSTONE

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

October 2018

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

Volume 24, Issue 10



Greetings PLUM Congregations in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus,

Fall has officially begun and I am officially a PLUM intern! It seems like just yesterday when I answered God’s call to become a part of the Lutheran family and to live out my call as an ordained word and sacrament minister. PLUM has been a big part of that growth.

Since I began my time with PLUM last September, I have been accepted as an ELCA candidate for Word and Sacrament with the SWPA SYNOD. This summer I completed my Clinical Pastoral Education training, a requirement for ordination, at the VA in Aspinwall. I also moved this summer and I am now residing in the St. Andrew’s parsonage that Pastor Beth so lovely cared for over the last 38 years. I hope I can continue to imbue the space with the same love and care that she gave it (big shoes to fill). Thank you to all the PLUM members who came out to help me. It was also an opportunity for my HOPE Lutheran of Forest Hills family to interact with my PLUM family. It felt like the loving arms of one family handing me over to another. I am truly grateful to both communities for the continued support and care.

On the family front, my daughter Jamila turned 21 in August and is in her final year of college at LaSalle University. My son Jaseem turned 20 in September and started at Thiel College where he is playing football. So if you haven’t heard my

football stories yet, they are coming. My sister Karol continues to live in Regent Square with her dog Maggie.

And at PLUM we are traveling through the Narrative Lectionary. Whew....I am tired just reflecting on all that change. But at the same time I am excited about what God is doing through our various ministries. I have been blessed to be a part of conversations on how to faithfully transition ministries through the closing of buildings while remaining responsive to God’s call in our communities. I have had the joy of engaging in a Tuesday Bible study at St. Andrew in which the Holy Spirit has been revealing the drama, intrigue and shenanigans of the characters in Genesis. (Who needs soap operas when we have the Old Testament?) In the midst of the stories we see God’s unmerited grace and favor in caring for God’s creation despite our tendency to do things our way, not God’s.

In our larger communities much is happening. The hurricane season is upon us as we witness Hurricane Florence’s impact on North and South Carolina while our sister congregations in Puerto Rico continue to deal with the effects of Hurricane Maria from the last hurricane season. The reports of wide spread sexual abuse of children by religious leaders is eroding the trust of our communities at a time when many are questioning the role of religion. We are also witnesses to what God is up to in and around us. At the Assistant Bishops luncheon pastors heard a presentation by Madame Jeanne Christian from our sister synod in Madagascar. She shared about the Malagasy Lutheran Church ministries of evangelism and leadership development. I was particularly touched

by their motto “Go and bring one new person for Christ every year.” A number of examples of ecumenical leadership have taken place within our SYNOD, with Presbyterian Pastors serving in Lutheran churches and a Lutheran pastor serving in an Episcopal church and vice versa. At the national level, the ELCA has elected and installed its first two African-American female Bishops.

As I reflect back on this last year I am reminded how much has changed and what remains constant. God’s call on my life remains constant. The command to love God and care for my neighbors remains constant. Moving forward I am called to listen and be attentive to the Holy Spirit unfolding of how to care for my neighbors – you – in loving and creative ways. To do so I must be open to listening and learning from you. I believe that Bishop Kusserow’s description in the ECHO of how to communicate with each other captures this process well. According to Bishop Kusserow, what we should be communicating to each other are:

- That God loves you.
- That there is hope for the future.
- That you can trust these things because Jesus lives that message in his life, death and resurrection.
- That the church’s primary goal is to bear witness to Christ.
- That we bear witness to Christ most clearly in sacramental worship and care for the neighbor.
- We do this better together than apart.
- You are an important part of our life and ministry.
- Our variety and differences do not weaken us but are a strength.
- You may ask questions without being afraid.

I look forward to what God has in store for us in this next year.

Peace and Blessings,

Vicar Brenda



The monthly mission for October is Lutheran Disaster Relief – Hurricane Florence. Make sure to put your envelope number and name on your envelope.

VENDOR & FAIR

Resurrection Lutheran Church (7600 Steubenville Pike, Oakdale 15071) is hosting a Craft & Soup Festival on Saturday, October 6 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (set up at 8:30 a.m.). There will be a Craft Sale and orders will be taken for Chestnut Hill Candles at \$12.00 each. Hot dogs, homemade soups and funnel cakes will be sold. If you have any questions, text or call Peg Burgunder at 724-242-3065 or email mlburgunder@aol.com.

Camp Agape Fall Foliage Day

October 13 @ 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm



Join us at camp for Autumn at its festive best! There will be hayrides, pumpkins to decorate and take home, lots of good food including roasting hot dogs and making s’mores over the campfire. Please RSVP at 724-356-2308.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

4:00 pm -8:00 pm

Adult Presale \$10.00 (at the door, \$12)

Child under 12 \$5.00

Part of the proceeds will go to
Lutheran Disaster Response
toward Hurricane Florence Relief.

COME FOR GOOD FOOD, FRIENDS, RAFFLES &
MUSIC

Enjoy German-style food & refreshments
*Hot Dogs *Sauerkraut *Kielbasa *Potato
Pancakes *Red Cabbage *Spaetzle *Pretzels
*German Chocolate Cake
Christ Lutheran Church

405 Kennedy Avenue Duquesne

Call Deann at 412-951-0466 or

email.christluthduq@gmail.com

to reserve your ticket.

Tickets will also be available at the PLUM Board
Meeting on October 7.



PLUM JOINT REFORMATION SERVICE

October 28, 2018

3:00 PM

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

601 Brownsville Road

Pittsburgh (Mt. Oliver) 15210

The Liturgy will include a time for Healing and
installation of Brenda Henry as PLUM's Vicar.

Pastor Martin Rafanan will preach, the PLUM
Handbell choir will make their debut and
refreshments will follow.



On Saturday, September 8th, our 12 PLUM
congregations accomplished an amazing feat as
their first collective service project. In 1 ½ hours,
our 80 PLUM volunteers put together 10,400 meals
for Rise Against Hunger, and our monetary
donations covered the shipping cost for these
meals. Collectively we donated \$3,486. All of
those in attendance enjoyed the high pace
production line, and many asked if we could do it
again next year and increase the meal count. So,
whether you assembled the boxes, replenished the
bins when needed, worked on the assembly line,
served as a runner, weighed the packages, sealed
the packages, assembled the boxes for shipping,
or helped load or unload the truck; all of us worked
as a team to accomplish the task at hand. Thank
you! The packaged meals that were prepared will
go on to many school programs in third world
countries to help eradicate world hunger. As we all
know, this event does not discount the need to
provide assistance and donations at our own
individual food banks here locally, as hunger is a
reality in our own backyards as well. We need to
do both, so please support your local food
banks. A thank you to all who participated in this
event – what a witness! Wholesome snacks were
provided by a Thrivent Action Team following the
event.

Mary Anne Novak



October Assistants and Sponsors

Acolyte

- October 7
- October 14
- October 21 – Logan Billingham
- October 28

Assisting Minister

- October 7 – Jill A. Shook
- October 14 – Corey Ferens
- October 21 – Ann Morrocco
- October 28 – Carol Ferens

Eternal Candle

- Jill A. Shook

Fellowship

- October 7 – No Fellowship
- October 14 – Jill A. Shook
- October 21 – No Fellowship
- October 28 – Ann Morrocco

Flowers

- October 7 – Jill A. Shook
- October 14
- October 21 – Ruth Latta
- October 28 – Karen & Logan Billingham

Lector

- October 7 – John Straka
- October 14 – Ann Morrocco
- October 21 – Carol Jean Straka
- October 28 – Jill A. Shook

Worship Leaders

- October 7 – Vicar Brenda Henry
 - October 14 – Rev. John Gropp
 - October 21 – Rev. Liz Mayforth
 - October 28 – Rev. Jocelyn Johnston
- (Worship schedule is subject to change)



Samantha Mrvos	October 7
Karen Billingham	October 9
Jim Filby	October 13
Sammie Jo Richmond	October 22



Ev, Sharlene, Anna Mae, Mark, Virginia, Pam, Patty, Joyce, Dan, George, Edward, Randy, Jim, Christine, Anita, Lee, Rich, Faith, Anna Mae, the Richmond family, Charlotte, Laura, Tyler, Jim, Dr. Wolfson, Steve, Barbara, the Burchesky family, Pastor Wayne, John, 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.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

When God seems far away – call Psalm 139

Emergency numbers may be dialed direct. No operator assistance is necessary. All lines to Heaven are open 24 hours a day.