

# The Epistle

A newsletter for the Members and Friends of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church



June 2023

## PASTOR

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Cell: 814-823-9742  
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215-257-4707

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215-723-8981

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Jim McMichael  
267-885-8026  
[council@stpaulstelford.org](mailto:council@stpaulstelford.org)

## SEXTON

Al Lightner  
215-368-0374

There are many “funny” videos about people being surprised, and the reactions of the people surprised are varied based on *the kind of surprise*. The scary surprises are the ones when someone hides behind a door or couch, and suddenly leap out and the surprised person screams. Personally, I don't like those surprises, but I prefer the joyful surprises when a mom or dad serving in the military comes home unexpectedly, appearing at the children's school. When the child sees the parent who has been away, they are surprised with joy, and that to me is the very best surprise.

In pastoral ministry, there are good and bad surprises as well, or better said, good and bad things that happen we do not expect. An unexpected phone call from a church member recently diagnosed with cancer, or a family member who died. Those are the tough moments, and we all have faced them. Just when we think we have life under control, something happens unexpectedly and everything changes. Each morning I come into my church office and see I have phone messages, I hold my breath hoping the message will bring good news and not bad.

Over the last three Sunday's I have been saying this during the announcements:

*“I continue to thank you for your giving to St. Paul's allows for our ministry here in Telford, throughout the Southeastern PA Synod and through all the ministries of the ELCA. If you have not been able to make your offering in some time, I ask you to be mindful and to be surprisingly generous. We love those “good surprises”, and so this week, pray about your blessings, and be moved to make those generous offerings.”*

Believing we are to name and pray for those things we believe are good and pleasing to the Lord, I have been praying for good surprises, because they lift the soul. For just when I start to get discouraged about things, I receive an unexpected phone call from a dear friend, or a kind note sent to support me, or an unexpected gift from an unexpected person. Those moments of unexpected generosity remind me of God's love and the work of the Holy Spirit among us.

On a recent Sunday, St. Paul's received a very generous and unexpected financial contribution from an unknown person. The giving appeared out of nowhere, and I want to share with you how touched I was by it. My heart was lifted, and I rejoiced in the goodness of the Lord, because this church is making a difference not just in this community, but through our shared ministry with the Southeastern PA Synod and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. So, I take this moment to thank you each of you for your faithful giving to the ministry of St. Paul's, and I look forward to those good surprises which God will provide to this ministry through your generous and loving lives.

In gratitude,  
Pastor Bill Coleman

**Church Council  
Contact  
Information**

**Church Officers**

Jim McMichael,  
President  
267-885-8026

Ray Landis  
Vice President  
610-287-5499

Cathy Hurley  
Treasurer  
215-258-1211

Wayne Young,  
Secretary  
610-287-8897

**Committee  
Chairpersons**

**Cemetery**  
Dale Souder  
215-527-4709

**Christian Education**

Janet Farrington  
267-733-8725

**Evangelism**

Deb Bitner  
267-664-0039

**Fellowship**

Terry Crippen  
215-439-2284

**Finance**

Cathy Hurley  
215-258-1211

**Property**

Greg Fosbenner  
215-257-4707

**Social Ministry**

Barbara Mandato  
215-460-5473

**Stewardship**

Wayne Young  
610-287-8897

**Worship and Music**

Vacant

**Youth**  
Vacant

# Finance Update



Checking Account - Monthly	
Beginning Balance 4/1/23	\$25,216.21
Deposits (monthly)	\$19,931.23
Beginning Bal + Deposits	\$45,147.44
Expenses (monthly)	\$28,002.70
Ending Balance 4/30/23	\$17,144.74

Checking Account - YTD	
Beginning Balance 1/1/23	\$37,296.47
Deposits to date	\$95,979.70
Beginning Balance + Deposits	\$133,276.17
Expenses to date	\$116,131.43
Ending Balance 4/30/23	\$17,144.74

Ending Fund Balances 4/30/23	
Memorial Fund	\$37,884.05
Capital Reserve	\$80,433.72
Benevolence	\$3,235.21
Specials	\$26,211.91

Liabilities as of 4/30/23	
Mortgage Balance	\$29,779.39

*This information is the most up to date available at time of printing. More up to date information can be found in the Sunday bulletins, or by calling the church office.*



## Church Family News

On May 21, Maverick Ace Misnik was claimed as a child of God in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Maverick is the son of Alicia and Adam Misnik.

*You are invited to pray for the families and friends of...*

Rev. John Huber, who died on May 17, 2023



www.stpaulstelford.org and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/StPaulsLutheranChurchTelfordPa/](http://www.facebook.com/StPaulsLutheranChurchTelfordPa/)



## Thank You Notes

Dear Pastor Coleman and St. Paul's Members, I want to express my sincere thanks for the friendship and blessings you continue to offer me. Pastor, I appreciate your visits and our conversations, including the interest you take in my family and my life here in the Lutheran Community. I am truly grateful for your time, as well as the flowers and dried palm cross that have been personally delivered to me by members of St. Paul's. You put a smile on my face and warmth in my hear!

*Doris Seifert*



## Reminder!

Please remember that if you have any changes to your address, home phone number, cell phone number, email address, etc., please let Ashley in the church office know so that we can continue to keep our church records as up to date as possible.



On Sunday, June 4, Holy Trinity Sunday, Paige Brasch and Addison Parvin will affirm their

baptism. This will be their Day of Confirmation. Be sure to come to worship on that day to support Paige and Addison on their journey of faith.

# Building a Culture of Generosity in the Building Fund

The preceding 2 segments of this 4 part series about the deposit accounts of St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, were specifically and individually focused on the Current and Benevolence accounts. One would need to reference the April and May issues of the *EPISTLE* to read them. As I've stated in those articles, this series is being presented in an effort to clear up any misunderstandings that may exist among contributors regarding what each category of your donations supports. This is a refresher for our long time supporters and hopefully informative for folks who have just recently started their faith journey with us and may have come from a church background where all expenses were paid from a single General Operating Fund. This month we will be taking a look at the Building Fund account.

The Building Fund account is unique from our congregation's other accounts, in that it only receives deposits from donations specifically designated as BUILDING. The Building Fund account also only pays one bill, the mortgage. No other expenses are currently paid from this account. Expenses to maintain the physical property are paid from the Current account. 100% of all monies contributed to the Building account through our envelope or direct deposit giving is applied toward our mortgage. At this time, funds cannot be contributed into the Building account through the use of our QR code.

The focus and use of the Building Fund account may change within the next year as St Paul's approaches the complete payment of our mortgage. The fulfillment of the mortgage obligation should be satisfied within this calendar year, which is a wonderful accomplishment and one for which we give God thanks.

There are some major physical plant expenses that St Paul's will need to address in the relative near future. There is discussion, within the Church Council, that once the mortgage obligation is satisfied, we would direct and encourage folks to continue to support the Building Fund and that those donations would be applied toward these major expenses. I would stress, however, that at the time of this writing, the Building funds are only applied to the mortgage. If the application of Building funds changes, the congregation will be notified, in advance, so there is no misappropriation of your donations.

I thank you for your solid, generous support of our Building Fund account. Next month, we will conclude this journey through St Paul's deposit accounts and examine what expenses are covered by the Special account.

Wayne Young, Stewardship chair



## Honoring Our Graduates

On **Sunday, June 11**, we will be honoring those who have graduated this year from high school, college, or any degree program. If you or anyone you know is graduating this year, please contact the church office with the following information:

- Graduates' Name
- What school they are graduating from
- Any plans for the fall that the graduate might have

Please return this information to the church office by **Wednesday, June 7**. Thank you!

A decorative border featuring pink and red roses and green leaves, framing the text on the right side of the page.

*The HOPE Women's Circle  
invites you to the*

## *Prayer Garden Re-dedication & Tea*

**Sunday June 11**  
immediately after worship

A light tea will follow  
the rededication.



# Sunday Morning



It was great to get back to normal this school year!

We had fifteen children attending, being led by Janet Farrington, Amy Haines, Marian Henry, Christine Martin and assisted by Ashlee Mininger, Addison Parvin, Jaiden Parvin, Danielle Brasch, and Nick Sadler.

Even though we won't hold Children's Ministry on Sunday mornings during the summer, families are encouraged to attend! The pray-ground, Pastor's children sermons, activity bags, the kids library, and activity bulletins are available all summer long!



**June 26—29 8:30 am—3pm**

For youth entering 4<sup>th</sup> grade through high school  
A joint youth event between three churches

Bring a water bottle and suntan lotion.  
Lunches will be provided.

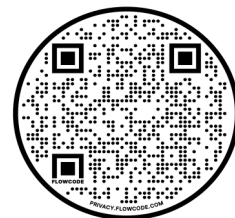
**Monday, June 26** being held at Grace Lutheran in Hatfield

**Tuesday, June 27** being held at St. Paul's

**Wednesday, June 28** being held at Emmanuel Lutheran in Souderton

**Thursday, June 29** – work and fun day in Lancaster, PA

Signup can be found on our church website, the weekly announcement email or by scanning the QR code below. Questions? Contact Marian Henry.



# 2023 Vacation Bible School



**July 31 through August 3  
from 9am – noon**

Being held this summer at Little Zion Lutheran Church, Morwood Rd., Telford

You can sign up through the link on our website or in the weekly announcement email, through the QR code here or through the green sign up forms in the narthex.



Adult & teen helpers are needed for many roles, from assisting with snacks, science, crafts, recreation, actors, and small group leaders.

For more info or to volunteer, please contact Marian Henry at [dce@stpaulstelford.org](mailto:dce@stpaulstelford.org)

# Lehigh Valley IronPigs Baseball Game at Coca-Cola Park

**Saturday, August 19—6:35pm gametime  
Sign Up and Payment is due July 23**



\$22 per person includes game ticket, air conditioned bus ride to the ballpark, and \$2 ballpark credit  
Bus to the ballpark leaves St. Paul's parking lot at 4:30pm, returning at approximately 10:30pm. Sign up sheet can be found in the Narthex. Questions? Talk to Marian Henry

# Summer Adult Faith Conversations

Held during the summer on select Sunday mornings  
AND Thursday evenings!

Where Daily Life Intersects with God's Word

Led by Pastor Coleman and Marian Henry

10:45am Sunday mornings in the Parlor after worship

6:30pm Thursday evenings at Freewill Brewery  
(come early and grab dinner at one of the food trucks!)

Thursday, June 22 – 6:30pm at Freewill Brewing

Sunday, June 25 – 10:45am in the Parlor

Stay tuned for future dates to be announced soon!

## Intersections:

Where Daily Life Intersects  
with God's Word

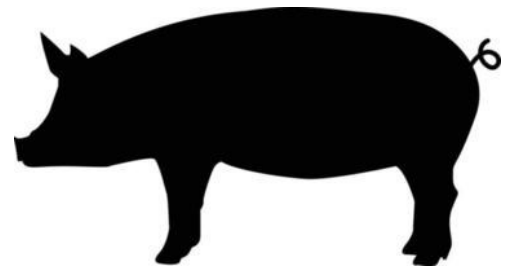
## St. Paul's Bible Study



June 1 and 15 at 12:00 pm

St. Paul's Bible Study takes place on the first and third Thursday each month. Come and join us in Christian Fellowship for this informal time to reflect, discuss and learn.

## Adult Pig Roast



**Saturday, July 15**

5pm – appetizers; 6ish – dinner

Please bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert to share

Meat, water, tea & lemonade will be provided

\$10 per person

BYOB

Being held at the home of Tom & Karen Dunlap

10 Church Rd., Telford

RSVP by July 3 – sign up sheet is located in the Narthex or call the church office

## American Red Cross Blood Drive



**Thursday, June 22 from 2 -7 pm**

The next American Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for Thursday, June 22 from 2:00 - 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Barbara Mandato (215) 460-5473 after 5:00 pm or [mandato01@msn.com](mailto:mandato01@msn.com) for more details or to make an appointment. (Appointments are highly recommended). You can also make an appointment by going online to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and using the sponsor code [stpaulstelford](http://www.stpaulstelford.org) to find our upcoming blood drives.



**Every Fourth Tuesday of the Month at Free Will Brewing Co., Perkasie**  
**Next Meeting: June 27 at 7 pm**

For the past several years, members from several local congregations have been gathering on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month for Pub Theology. Each month features a different leader and topic. Conversations are always lively and thought-provoking. Won't you consider joining us?  
No previous Bible knowledge needed!

# Volunteer Serving in June 2023

## ALTAR GUILD

Jayne Poole, Judy Heckler, Gloria Beer,  
Janet Lincoln, Debra Croisette

## ASSISTING MINISTERS

**June 4**— Dawn Krown

**June 11**— Diane King

**June 18**— Denny Detweiler

**June 25** — Wayne Young

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

**June 4**— Addison Parvin and Paige Brasch

**June 11**— No Communion

**June 18**— Jim McMichael and Ron Schneck

**June 25** — Ray Landis and Marian Henry

## FLOWER DELIVERY

**June 4**— Pat Hammer

**June 11**— Joan Votta

**June 18**— Sara Johnson

**June 25** — Judy Heckler

## GREETERS

**June 4**— Judy and Ken Heckler

**June 11**— Ruth Sommers

**June 18**— Betty and Lee Shoemaker

**June 25** — Frank and Donna Bucher

## LECTORS

**June 4**— Addison Parvin

**June 11**— Frank Bucher

**June 18**— Pat Young

**June 25** — Linda Thompson

## USHERS

**June 4**— Bob Johnson and Dale Souder

**June 11**— Tors Ahlman and Rich Poole

**June 18**— Ron Money and Fred Johns

**June 25** — Denny Detweiler and Ron Schneck

THANK YOU  
Volunteers



# Prayer List



*The following prayer list is current as of May 22, 2023. Please contact the church office with any changes. Names will remain on the prayer list for four weeks unless notified otherwise. Thank you.*

## **Please Pray for...**

Jeanette Delp

Mary Devereaux

Suzanne Fernandez

Sharon Lord

Anne Macy

Robert Scott Sr.

Amber Voehringer

Samantha Williams

## **Please Continue to Pray for...**

Diane Carver

Greg Church

Dick Clark

Maxine Detweiler

Carolyn Evans

Roland Fernandez

Bev Gibson

Tim Greiser

Bob Grisley

Gloria Harpel

Bryan Johnson

Roger Jones

Gayle King

Al Landis

Tracey Leinen

Bill Lincoln

Leigh Anne Mirabella

Karen Money

Joanne Romano

Dean and Rachelle Shollenberger

Paul Stover

Andrew Strauss

Claudette Strauss

Linda Tierrmo

Luke Touhill

Victoria Young

Fred Wahl

## **Comfort for the Bereaved**

Family and Friends of Ann Coleman

*(Mother of Pastor Bill Coleman)*

Family and Friends of Rev. John Huber

*\*If you would like a name added to the prayer list, please fill out the "Prayer Requests" section of the weekly bulletin insert, or speak to Pastor Coleman or Ashley in the church office.*