

The Epistle

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



May 2023

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DIRECTOR

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SEXTON

Al Lightner
215-368-0374

As pastor at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, I serve on the church council. Currently we have ten council members, and their role is church leadership. I am grateful to each of them for sharing their gifts and leading us in ministry. The church council members (along with all of you) are my "boss", which means, I have a responsibility to report my monthly activities. It's important to be held accountable for my time. I believe good and frequent communication is important. Please remember that names and pictures of our church council members are on the bulletin board across from the church parlor and next to the library. Next time you are at church, look at the bulletin board to know who your church leaders are in case you have any recommendations or questions.

Included in my monthly council report is what I call "Worthy Quotes". In my life of reading, I save quotes that have been meaningful to me, trusting they may be meaningful to others. Some of the quotes are about leadership, faith, or words of motivation. Words, at their very best, can be inspiring, and so I would like to share with you some of those "Worthy Quotes" I have shared with our church council members.

Worthy Quotes

"Take wrong turns. Talk to strangers. Open unmarked doors. And if you see a group of people in a field, go find out what they are doing. Do things without always knowing how they'll turn out." *Randall Munroe*

"Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world." *Virgil Kraft*

"I am still determined to be cheerful and to be happy in whatever situation I may be, for I have also learnt from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends upon our dispositions, and not upon our circumstances." *Martha Washington*

"The spiritual life is not a life of quiet withdrawal, a hothouse growth of artificial ascetic practices beyond the reach of people living ordinary lives. It is in the ordinary duties and labors of life that can and should develop our spiritual union with God." *Thomas Merton*

"You can't have anything worthwhile without difficulties. Mistakes will be made. No one who accomplishes things can expect to avoid mistakes. Only those who do nothing make no mistakes." *President Harry Truman*

"Charity is the beginning and the end of the Bible. Whoever, therefore, thinks that he understands the divine scriptures or any part of them so that it does not build the double love of God and of our neighbor does not understand it at all." *By Augustine*

"God's work done in God's way will never lack for funds. Generosity is contagious. God never promised to meet our budget, only our needs." - *J. Hudson Taylor*

A person with a new idea is a crank until the idea succeeds." *Mark Twain*

In gratitude to each of you during this Season of Easter.
Pastor Bill Coleman

**Church Council
Contact
Information**

Church Officers

Jim McMichael,
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267-885-8026

Ray Landis
Vice President
610-287-5499

Cathy Hurley
Treasurer
215-258-1211

Wayne Young,
Secretary
610-287-8897

**Committee
Chairpersons**

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Dale Souder
215-527-4709

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267-733-8725

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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 3/1/23	\$27,909.42
Deposits (monthly)	\$22,800.36
Beginning Bal + Deposits	\$50,709.78
Expenses (monthly)	\$25,493.57
Ending Balance 3/31/23	\$25,216.21

Checking Account - YTD	
Beginning Balance 1/1/23	\$37,296.47
Deposits to date	\$76,048.47
Beginning Balance + Deposits	\$113,344.94
Expenses to date	\$88,128.73
Ending Balance 3/31/23	\$25,216.21

Ending Fund Balances 3/31/23	
Memorial Fund	\$37,932.59
Capital Reserve	\$80,430.64
Benevolence	\$5,179.21
Specials	\$23,478.54

Liabilities as of 3/31/23	
Mortgage Balance	\$32,666.73

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.



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.



Thank You Notes

Thank you to Pastor Coleman and the members of St. Paul's for the pretty daffodils that surrounded the alter at the Easter service. Also the palm cross was greatly appreciated.

Bill and Sandy Baker

Thank you to Pastor Coleman and to all the members of St. Paul's for the cards, thoughts, prayers and good wishes I received during my recent illness. I am feeling much better, and I thank you for your support.

Rhelda Warriner

I just want to thank everyone for all of your thoughts, prayers, and cards sent, not only when my brother left us but also throughout the several years of his health issues! All were so very much helpful and appreciated! On behalf of my family, our sincere and grateful thanks to everyone—I keep reminding myself he's in a better place now... and then I think "Oh my goodness, I'm the eldest in our family!!!" LOL! Thank you all again!

Sara Ryan and Family



www.stpaulstelford.org and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/StPaulsLutheranChurchTelfordPa/

Building a Culture of Generosity in the Benevolence Fund

For the first part of this 4 part series about the deposit accounts of St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, which highlighted the Current account, I would refer you to the April issue of the *EPISTLE*. As a reminder, 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 will be 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 Benevolence account.

The Benevolence account receives deposits from several different designations, but the major focus of this account is our congregation's apportionment. 100% of all monies contributed to the Benevolence account through our envelope or direct deposit giving is applied toward our apportionment. At this time, funds cannot be contributed to Benevolence through the use of our QR code. If the word "apportionment" is foreign to you, let me attempt to explain what, where, and why this exists.

Apportionment, for lack of a better example, is like an assessment. As a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), St Paul's is given a target apportionment figure, based on our confirmed membership. It's a figure that represents our "portion" of the funding needed to sustain the national church organization (ELCA) and local (Southeastern Pennsylvania) synod. The apportionment funds are split 50/50 between the local and national governing bodies. Our apportionment is \$30,000. St Paul's can be extremely proud of the fact that we have met our apportionment figure every year for many, many years. It's a testament to our calling as Lutheran Christians to live out our faith in this way.

The apportionment funds pay for all staff expenses on the national and local levels of the governing bodies: the bishops and their assistants, the office staff, the various agencies (think World Hunger, Disaster Response, Child and Family Services, just to name a few) the church oversees, as well as, mobility (the process of supplying pastors to congregations in transition, i.e. Pastor Coleman coming to St Paul's), vitality, missions, advocacy and justice, Youth Ministry events, Synod and National Assembly, and the list goes on. Because these offices are fully funded through apportionment, when one donates to something like Lutheran Disaster Response, 100% of that donation is sent directly to folks affected by the disaster. We have all witnessed, first-hand, the positive effect that being a member of a larger church body can have on a local congregation. Thanks be to God for the work these governing bodies do on our behalf!

Monies contributed specifically to the Lutheran Community at Telford through your envelopes is also tracked and passed on from the Benevolence account. Special appeals to World Hunger, a specific disaster, or national/local church agency or event, like the Bear Creek Camp Appeal on the second Sunday in March, are also deposited into and paid out of this account.

I'm sure that I probably have failed to address one or two items that are covered by the Benevolence account, but I hope you have a better understanding of that for which this account pays. I thank you for your solid, generous support of our Benevolence. Next month, we will continue this journey and examine what expenses are covered by the Building account.

Wayne Young, Stewardship chair

All Times and Places

Worship on Ascension with ELCA churches of the Indian Valley Cluster

Thursday, May 18
Christ Lutheran Church,
Harleysville

Covered dish picnic, 6 p.m.
Worship, 7 p.m.
Bring a dish to share!



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.

Honoring Our Graduates

During the month of June, 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

The exact Sunday of the Graduation Recognition has not yet been determined. Please stay tuned for further updates.



Bible Quiz

According to Peter, at what time of day did the Holy Spirit come upon the disciples on Pentecost?

- A. 9 a.m.
- B. Noon
- C. 3:30 p.m.
- D. 9 p.m.



Answer: A (See Acts 2:15.)

St. Paul's Bible Study

May 4 and 18
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.

Intersections

Sunday Morning Adult Faith Conversations
Where Daily Life Intersects with God's Word

May 7 and May 21
at 10:45 am in the Parlor

Led by Pastor Coleman
and Marian Henry

Sunday Morning



Children ages three through 5th grade start in worship with their parents and then are invited to Children's Ministry after the Children's Message. They return to worship in time for Communion. Please join us!

May 7 – Kids help in worship

May 14 – Mother's Day project

May 21 – Jesus Ascension

May 28 – Pentecost – Happy Birthday church!

2023 Vacation Bible School



**Monday, July 31 through August 3, 2023
from 9am – noon**

For children ages 4 (must be potty-trained) through entering 5th grade

This year's VBS is being held at Little Zion Lutheran Church located on Morwood Rd. in Telford. Registration links can be found on our website and weekly e-news. Paper registrations are also available! (<https://telfordvbs.mycokesburyvbs.com>)



**June 26—29
9:30 am—4pm**

Meals will be provided

Always a highlight! Joining with other youth for a week of hands-on service projects to help local non-profits!

Monday, June 26 – held at Grace, Hatfield

Tuesday, June 27 – held at St. Paul's

Wednesday, June 28 – being held at Emmanuel, Souderton

Thursday, June 29 – TBD



Wind, fire & spirit

Acts 2 describes the amazing events of Pentecost, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit.

Directions: The last letter(s) of each word is the beginning letter of the next. Fill in the missing words to complete Acts 2:1-4, NIV.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| 1. HEAV | 6. OGETHE |
| 2. ABLE | 7. ES |
| 3. AY OF PENTECOS | 8. ONGUE |
| 4. ONGUE | 9. A |
| 5. PIRI | 10. IND |



“When the _____³ came, they were all _____⁶ in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent _____¹⁰ came from _____¹ and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They _____⁹ what seemed to be _____⁴ of fire that separated and came to _____⁷ on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy _____⁵ and began to speak in other _____⁸ as the Spirit _____² them.”

ACTS 2:1-4, NIV

Answer: 1. heaven, 2. enabled, 3. day of Pentecost, 4. tongues, 5. Spirit, 6. together, 7. rest, 8. tongues, 9. saw, 10. wind



Easter Wondering and Wandering Walks

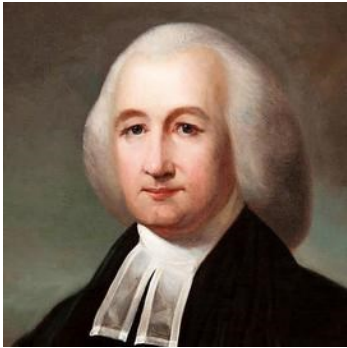
Tuesday mornings starting at 9:30am

A fun morning that starts with wondering about a Bible passage and then wandering the streets and alleys of Telford.

Please join us for this time of spiritual and physical activity!

Henry Muhlenberg and the Lutheran Church in Colonial Pennsylvania

Wednesday, May 24 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall



Lisa Minardi will give a presentation on the history of the Lutheran church in colonial Pennsylvania, including its longtime leader, Henry Muhlenberg. She will share images of colonial Lutheran churches and artifacts as well as the Muhlenberg family's houses in Trappe. Minardi is the executive director of the Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia and Historic Trappe. A Pennsylvania native, she is the author of *Pastors & Patriots: The Muhlenberg Family of Pennsylvania*, as well as many books on articles on southeastern Pennsylvania furniture and folk art.

Prayer Garden Update

The engraved bricks have been laid, now we need help to spruce up the flower beds!

Prayer Garden Work Days

All ages are invited!!

Friday, May 19 at 9am—weeding, raking, and planting

Saturday, May 20 at 9am—mulching

Please consider giving an hour or two to help out! Bring rakes, shovels & gardening gloves

Prayer Garden Dedication

Sunday, June 11 after worship

Bear Creek Camp Event!

Work Day & May Play Day

9:00 AM - Work Day Begins
11:00 AM - May Play Day Begins
hiking
nature center open
rec hall open

12:00 PM - Free Lunch for All!
1:00 PM - Gathering in the Courtyard
Q&A about BCC Summer Camp
NEPA Synod Youth Update

1:30-3:00 PM - Activities Continue
hiking
camp store open
rec hall open
boating

3:00 PM - Closing Words and Songs

Every Fourth Tuesday of the Month at Free Will Brewing Co., Perkasie

Next Meeting: May 23 at 7 pm

For the past several years, members from several local congregations have been gathering on the 4th 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!



**ST. PAUL'S GREEN TEAM
ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY**

SCRAP METAL RECYCLING EVENT

SATURDAY, MAY 13th

8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon

**PARKING LOT BEHIND ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

107 W LINCOLN AVE, TELFORD, PA

Drop off these items free of charge: All scrap metal including Steel, Iron, Brass, Copper, Aluminum, and products such as Lawn Mowers, Benches, Bicycles, Washers, Dryers, Water Heaters, Swing Sets, Car Batteries, Radiators, Insulated Wire, Christmas/Holiday Light Sets and much more!

We will also accept Room Air Conditioners and Dehumidifiers! No charge!

DO NOT BRING: Tin Cans, Paint Cans, Vacuum Cleaners, Microwaves, Refrigerators, Freezers, Hazardous Material or Electronics.



Volunteer Serving in May

ALTAR GUILD

Judy Kraus, Beth Seifert, Joan Votta, Peg Deily

ASSISTING MINISTERS

May 7— Dawn Krown

May 14— Wayne Young

May 21— Ashley Bromley

May 28— Diane King

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

May 7— Jim McMichael and Cathy Hurley

May 14— Ray Landis and Shirley Schimpf

May 21— Jim McMichael and Cathy Hurley

May 28— Ray Landis and Shirley Schimpf

FLOWER DELIVERY

May 7— Judy Kraus

May 14— Joan O'Connor

May 21— Joan O'Connor

May 28— Jeanette Johnson

GREETERS

May 7— Ruth Woltersdorf

May 14— Sandy and Bill Baker

May 21— Cathy Hurley

May 28— Deb Bitner

LECTORS

May 7— Joan Votta

May 14— Mallory Prediger

May 21— Amy Coleman

May 28— Bob Bell

USHERS

May 7— Bob Johnson and Dale Souder

May 14— Jim McMichael and Randy Groff

May 21— Ron Money and Fred Johns

May 28— Denny Detweiler and Ron Schneck



Prayer List



The following prayer list is current as of April 25, 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...

Maxine Detweiler

Tracey Leinen

Mary Devereaux

Sharon Lord

Suzanne Fernandez

Linda Tierrmo

Al Landis

Please Continue to Pray for...

Diane Carver

Leigh Anne Mirabella

Greg Church

Karen Money

Dick Clark

Alvera Moyer

Carolyn Evans

Joanne Romano

Roland Fernandez

Beverlee Schnable

Lee Ford

Dean and Rachelle Shol-

Bev Gibson

lenberger

Tim Greiser

Paul Stover

Bob Grisley

Andrew Strauss

Gloria Harpel

Claudette Strauss

Bryan Johnson

Luke Touhill

Roger Jones

Victoria Young

Gayle King

Fred Wahl

Bill Lincoln

Comfort for the Bereaved

Family and Friends of Debbie O'Brien

(Sister in Law of Betty Shoemaker)

**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.*