

# SAINT PAUL'S Epistle

• Published Monthly by Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 371 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield, Connecticut 06109 •

July & August 2009

Volume 67, Number 7

## SEEKING CALM IN THE MIDST OF OUR STORMS

Sunday, March 18, 1990 is a date of infamy for the art world. On that day, thieves, dressed as Boston Police officers, entered the Isabella Gardner Museum, in Boston, and stole nearly \$300 million in artwork. 19 years later, the whereabouts of these works are still unknown. The museum is offering a \$5 million reward for information leading to their recovery.

Among the 13 works of art that were stolen was this painting by Rembrandt, "Christ in a Storm on the Sea of Galilee." While it is hard to see here, it portrays the story in Mark (4:35-41) where a tranquil and *sleeping* Jesus is woken by panicking disciples as their boat is buffeted by a ferocious storm at sea.

We know from Mark that once woken, Jesus "rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm."

What he does next, which draws you and me into this drama even more, is to turn to his disciples and ask, "Why are you afraid? Have you *still* no faith?"

To be honest, if I were one of these disciples, I would have been just as panicked. After all, their boat *was* about to capsize. Their lives *were* in peril. No wonder they were afraid. And in their fear they turned to Jesus for help. Isn't that noble? Isn't that a *sign* of faith? Are not we to turn to Jesus for aid when we feel threatened?

We live in a world rife with storms. On a literal level, who can forget the devastating affect

Hurricane Katrina had on the city of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast nearly 4 years ago? There are large parts of that great city that are yet to be restored.

But the storms that most buffet our lives are not always meteorological in nature. They are often quite *spiritual*. They are the result of a misalignment of our trust. They spring from a lack of vision— from misplacing our faith.

Jesus doesn't promise to stop storms from happening. In fact the reason why he calmed the storm for his disciples was to show them that he *could*—he was, after all, the Son of God. But that is not to say he plans to do the same for any of us.

No, his question is quite direct—almost a rebuke: "Why are you afraid? Have you *still* no faith." Faith, rightly oriented, leaves no room for fear, certainly not fear of a storm, no matter what shape it takes. Faith allows us to rest in the comfort and

knowledge that in God's hands, all is well.

Oh, the storm might just swamp our boat, but it will never swallow our souls.

Pastor Hugh Haffrenreffer



"Christ in the Storm on the Sea of Galilee" by Rembrandt Van Rijn (1606-1669)

### New Sign Board in Fellowship Hall

In an effort to improve our communication, Rick Seip has donated a sign board that can be found in the Fellowship Hall. Check it out!

Thanks Rick for your generosity! And thanks to Brian Beckwith and "Big John" for putting it up.

**Youth Gathering cool fact:  
Shoulder bags for every participant.  
Where will they come from?**

The quick answer is that they are being made in **Lebanon** as part of a very interesting ministry — the **Contact and Resource Center (CRC)**. This long-time **ELCA World Hunger** partner is involved in both training and advocacy with persons with disabilities.

Women from northern and rural Lebanon that have been affected by years of war and bombing are working on the Gathering shoulder bags with CRC and, in the process, learning to start their own micro-businesses. They are able to attend seminars on establishing sewing workshops, running workshops, book keeping, marketing, and working in healthy environments.

Three groups of women in northern Lebanon and Beirut were chosen to work on producing the shoulder bags and to develop their personal business skills. Sewing training for the women was done through local trainers who came to CRC for training and to receive Gathering shoulder bag samples. The women trained were then given the responsibility of training other women in their villages.

An additional team has been formed in Beirut consisting of two women with disabilities and a staff member (who is also disabled) to be responsible for receiving the 36,000 finished bags, doing quality control, and stocking the finished bags.

It's an incredible story and ministry... and you thought it was just a shoulder bag!



### **MISSION TRIP TO BILOXI MISSISSIPPI.**

Thrivent members can join a team to help rebuild housing in a Gulf Coast community as part of the Thrivent Builds Worldwide program. There is still a great need for volunteers to help with the rebuilding efforts in the Gulf Coast area. This year we have four teams scheduled over two different weeks. You can join any one of the teams during these weeks:

September 14-September 19 Team Captains - Joel Slesak & Jon Trottier

November 2 - November 7 Team Captains - Karen & Michael Hickey

The room and board cost for Thrivent Benefit members is \$185.00 for the week and for non-Thrivent members the cost is \$270.00. Your only other additional cost is Transportation to and from Biloxi.

Please consider joining our team.

Call Joel Slesak for details....1-888-207-5413 or e-mail him at [Joel.Slesak@Thrivent.com](mailto:Joel.Slesak@Thrivent.com)

Loret R W Schur  
Lutheran Engagement Associate  
Northeast Region  
Toll Free: 877-733-1208  
74 Chace Hill Rd, Sterling, MA 01564-1519  
Direct: 978-733-1208  
Cell: 978-399-4186  
Email: [loret.schur@thrivent.com](mailto:loret.schur@thrivent.com)

### **FAITH INCUBATION: EVERY NIGHT IN EVERY HOME**

**July 11, 2009 • Emanuel Lutheran Church, Manchester**

Please consider joining a leadership team who will attend the "FAITH 5 LEADERSHIP SEMINAR"

In this seminar Rich Melheim will be challenging pastors, staffs, key volunteers and education leaders to:

1. Test the "FAITH 5" (Faith Acts In The Home) for six weeks in their own homes
2. Rethink Christian education as family-involved processes rather than church-run programs
3. Rethink church staffers as equippers of ministries rather than professional ministry programmers
4. Rethink knocking your heads against the wall to recruit reluctant teachers for a system that takes parents away from their children and attempts to do the faith incubation once a week without them
5. Rethink implementing systems that call parents to the responsibility, value and joy of being their own child's faith mentors... every night in every home... from cradle to graduation.

For more information talk with Pastor Hugh.

## A Hopeful Day June 13, 2009

Recently I found these words in one of my older journals (June 6, 1982): “It seems strange that the prayers for spiritual strength and feeding, should be answered by a call to serve others! Is that how our spirits are set free to grow...(grow) by turning from our own needs, to look at what we can do for someone else?” (I always feel most complete when what I do, brings happiness to others. That happened for me on our retreat together!)

After the cottage meeting at our home on February 10, 2009 I called Emily Lourigan to say, “I forgot to mention retreats we should have a retreat.” The next Sunday I said to Pastor Hugh and Emily, “I need a purpose in life” and Emily said, “why don’t you organize a retreat”? And so it began.

After five tries to find a leader, I jumped into deep water, and said to myself, “I can do this! I’ve been to forty or fifty retreats (you can see neediness!), I’ve helped plan retreats, I can do this! And so, I immersed myself in the theme of “Hope”, which grew to become “The Healing Power of Hope”, that my planning partner Carol Farley, remembered from one of Pastor Hugh’s sermons.

When you find yourself immersed in deep water, what do you do? Tread water, scream loudly, pray for help, look for direction, open your eyes and heart, believe, head for shore and hope mightily.

Hope is internal, elusive and powerful, though at times it is only a flicker of light. God gave us hope from our first moment of Life, when our cries for food and comfort were met by our loving caregivers. And when those cries are not faithfully responded to, we do not thrive. Internal hope requires an external response, or hope has a hard time surviving.

So when our women came to retreat that

powerful day each one came with her own personal need for the healing power of hope. And they found that they were “receivers”, but also they were “givers” of hope. There was an upbeat atmosphere at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church that day we connected as sisters, amidst smiles and tears. We were gifts to each other.

A seed, a nugget, was planted, that we might be able to form a women’s group, a chapter of WELCA [Women of the Evangelical Church in America] here St. Paul’s. It would be a way to let us meet on a regular basis, just as we did in the old days of LCW (Lutheran Church Women). Let us hope and pray for that outcome. Speak to Sue Sonstrom! When Sue joined St. Paul’s, she came with the hope that our women would be receptive to starting a WELCA group here. Let the planted seed grow!

Please remember Jennie Dotts with your prayers, love, and support. As our Prayer Chain co-ordinator, Jennie passes on each prayer request, and the prayers move on down the chain. Our numbers

are low. Please consider calling Jennie (563-7918) to offer your help.

My thanks go out to all who knew they needed hope & healing, and who came forth to fill all the need of the day. And my deep gratitude to Pastor Hugh, our brother-in-Christ, who planted a seed (a nugget), who supported and encouraged us and who helped to end our day with the film

“Celebrate What’s Right With the World”, and a special worship service of healing communion.

But most of all, thanks be to God, who gives us to each other, and who is our Source of Hope.

With Love and Gratitude,  
*Ellie B.*



## Hang on to Hope

by Eva Thurwell

And hope does not put us to shame because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Our God is a God of unending hope!  
Hope Begins in the heart where God reigns  
At times hope seems to be lost to us by emotional upsets.

When this happens let you and I say-  
Why so downcast oh my soul  
Put your hope in God  
Put your hope in God  
Put your hope in God  
And bless His holy name

Hope is all around us:

It's in the sunrise and sunset each day.  
Then hope is our own resurrection from the dead someday.

Because Christ rose first from the grave!



### *A Prayer for Healing*

*Gracious God,  
Pour your spirit into my heart.  
Heal me where I am broken.  
Fill me with your love.  
And send me as a source of love  
and healing into your world.  
Amen.*



### Special Thank You to

Rick Seip, John Drummond, Bob Bowman & Charlie Bengtson for the delicious soups, cookies and fruit that they gave to our June 13th Women's Retreat at St. Paul's and our Sunday School children who made the poster's.

## Hammonasset 2009

September 11-13

# Food Drive

### Sunday Offering

Once again we will be collecting food for the Connecticut Food Bank. They will be dropping off a truck on Friday afternoon and leave it for the weekend. We collected nearly **ONE TON** of food 2 years ago. Let's see if we can top that this year!

While the Food Bank will accept anything we bring, here is a list of some of the preferred items:

- Tuna and Other Canned Meat
- Peanut Butter
- Chunky Soups & Beef Stew
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Spaghetti & Sauce
- Rice, and Dry & Canned Beans
- Canned Vegetables & Fruits
- Powdered Milk
- 100% Fruit Juice (Cans, Bottles, Boxes)
- Any of the above as "Sugar Free," "Low Sodium," &/or "No Salt"



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**“Faith and Family Day”**  
**Sunday August 23, 2009**  
**1:35 PM**



Free tickets available from  
***Thrivent Financial for Lutherans***

Contacts: Art Bruce 257-7327  
Linda Anderson 659-4094

**July Birthdays**

- 1 Joe Creevy
- 6 Jamie Groman
- 7 Elizabeth Todaro
- 8 Genny Klatt
- 10 Charles Dotts
- 10 Jerry Edison
- 10 Betty Lamo
- 10 Chris Homick
- 14 Doreen Matteson
- 16 Linda DiCioccio
- 22 Vicki Anderson
- 28 Matthew Perry
- 30 Wendy Anne Hartman

**August Birthdays**

- 2 Steve Gentino
- 4 Pam Vaillancourt
- 5 Paul Lostocco
- 6 Ann French
- 7 Elaine Henderson
- 7 Kathy Smith
- 8 Franklyn Matteson II
- 9 Mary Susla
- 10 Joanna Piscitello
- 12 Jeanette Serafine
- 19 Sue Agne
- 20 Howard Cogswell
- 20 Sue Sonstrom
- 22 Allan Barr
- 26 Sallyann Wolf
- 30 Scott Correll
- 31 Betsy Remes

---

**PASTORAL ACTS**

Julie Poole and Dennis Martini  
Blessing of their Marriage  
5/31/09

Griffin Dale Myers Baptism  
6/7/09

Amy Northrop & Jon Wittorff Wedding 6/20/09



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!**

**Kristina Homick** graduated from Rocky Hill HS and will be attending the University of N. C. at Charlotte.

**Amanda Viola** graduated from Rocky Hill HS and will be attending Central CT State University to become a secondary education teacher.

**Kyla Anderson** graduated from Glastonbury HS and will be attending Saint Joseph College, W. Hartford. Kyla will be focusing on Dietetics and Nutrition.

**Rebecca Malinguaggio** graduated from Wethersfield HS and will be attending UCONN.

**SUMMER ALL-CHURCH PICNIC!!**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 16**  
**AFTER THE CHURCH SERVICE**



**Come and join your sisters and brothers for a Summer picnic immediately after the Church Service. There will be hamburgers, hotdogs, and a whole array of tasty Summer treats.**

**Look for the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall so that we have a sense of numbers.**

**The picnic will take place on our front lawn and will be open to anyone who might want to just drop in off the street to find out what’s going on at St. Paul’s. So, tell your friends and neighbors, too!**

# ***ST. PAUL'S MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR July 2009***

## **ACOLYTES:**

*Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094*

- July 5 - Katie Grottke
- 12 - Kaitlin Anderson
- 19 - Jay Viola
- 26 - Gretchen Schultz

## **ALTAR GUILD:**

*Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094*

- July 5 - Jennie Dotts & Betty Lamo
- 12 - Anderson's
- 19 - Ann Baledes & Elaine Strecker
- 26 - Helen Peterson & Mary Susla

## **ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

*Coordinator*

- July 5 - Bill Fischer - 9:00
- 12 - Jerry Vaillancourt - 9:00
- 19 - Art Bruce - 9:00
- 26 - Emily Lourigan - 9:00

## **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:**

*Sue Agne, Coordinator, 563-0776*

- July 5 - Sue Agne
- 12 - Curt Leonard
- 19 - Jim Newmark
- 26 - Lillian Doerschler

## **FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:**

*Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 529-7588*

- July 5 - Sandra & Ken Slowik
- 12 - Ann Baledes & Ann French
- 19 - Christine & Rick Intravia
- 26 - Pam & Jody DiNatalie

## **FINANCE:**

*Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 257-4793*

- July 5 - Mary Procyk
- 12 - Lillian Doerschler
- 19 - Helen Peterson
- 26 - Lois Woy

## **LECTORS:**

*Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 529-1939*

- July 5 - Bill Fischer
- 12 - Arthur Bruce
- 19 - Carol Bruce
- 26 - Sue Agne

## **NURSERY:**

*Ann French, Coordinator, 529-3245*

- July ~ Summer Break

## **TAPING MINISTRY:**

*Coordinator*


- July ~ Summer Break

## **USHERS:**

*Brian Beckwith, Coordinator, 8AM, 563-4066*

*Louise Lostocco, Coordinator, 10:30AM, 529-3079*

- July Lillian Doerschler &  
Mary Ann Meade - 9:00



**FYI:**  
During July and August, the office hours will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

# **ST. PAUL'S MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR**

## **August 2009**

### **ACOLYTES:**

*Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094*

- Aug 2 - Kaitlin Anderson
- 9 - Gretchen Schultz
- 16 - Katie Grottke
- 23 - Jay Viola
- 30 - Jamie Piscitello

### **ALTAR GUILD:**

*Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094*

- Aug 2 - Ann French & Winnie Sawrun
- 9 - Jennie Dotts & Betty Lamo
- 16 - Ann Baledes & Elaine Strecker
- 23 - Anderson's
- 30 - Carol Farley & Debbie Howe

### **ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

- Aug 2 - Kathy Coyle - 9:00
- 9 - Mike Coyle - 9:00
- 16 - Jim Newmark - 9:00
- 23 - Patty Bengtson - 9:00
- 30 - Emily Lourigan - 9:00

### **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:**

*Sue Agne, Coordinator, 563-0776*

- Aug 2 - Walter Rupp
- 9 - Joan Kratzer
- 16 - Carole Hughes
- 23 - Mike Coyle
- 30 - Mary Procyk

### **FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:**

*Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 529-7588*

- Aug 2 - Pam Speno & Carol Farley
- 9 - Kathy & Mike Coyle
- 16 - Debbie & Amanda Viola
- 23 - Helen Peterson & Harriet Fritsch
- 30 - Ann Baledes & Lois Woy

### **FINANCE:**

*Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 257-4793*

- Aug 2 - Harriett Fritsch
- 9 - Betty Lamo
- 16 - Cindy Seip
- 23 - Bob Bowman
- 30 - Debbie Viola

### **LECTORS:**

*Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 529-1939*

- Aug 2 - Kathy Coyle
- 9 - Mike Coyle
- 16 - Jim Newmark
- 23 - Patty Bengtson
- 30 - Kaitlin Anderson

### **NURSERY:**

*Ann French, Coordinator, 529-3245*

\*Summer Break

### **TAPING MINISTRY:**

*Coordinator,*

\*Summer Break

### **USHERS:**

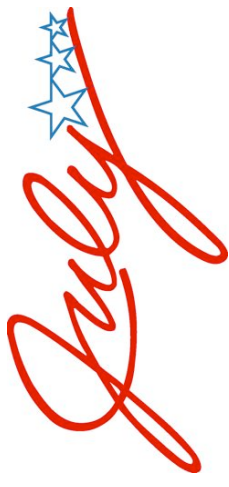
*Brian Beckwith, Coordinator, 8AM, 563-4066*

*Louise Lostocco, Coordinator, 10:30AM, 529-3079*

- Aug 2 - William Fischer Jr. & Mary Ann Meade
- 9 - Rick Seip & Dick Kratzer
- 16 - Rick Seip & William Fischer Jr.
- 23 - William Fischer Jr. & Dick Kratzer
- 30 - William Fischer Jr. & William Fischer Sr.




# July 2009

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday                                  | Thursday  | Friday                                       | Saturday   |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|
|   |  |  | <b>1</b><br>AA 7 PM                        | <b>2</b><br>Thurs. Group 10AM                                   | <b>3</b><br><b>Office Closed</b><br>AA 10 AM | <b>4</b><br><b>Happy Birthday America</b><br>South Park preparation<br>11:30 AM<br>AA 7:30PM |
| <b>5</b><br>Holy Comm. 9 AM   |   |  | <b>6</b>                                   | <b>8</b><br>AA 7 PM<br><i>Didache Team Meeting: 7PM</i>         | <b>9</b><br>Thurs. Group 10AM                | <b>10</b><br>AA 10 AM  |
| <b>12</b><br>Holy Comm. 9 AM<br>Kerygma Team:<br>10:30AM                                    | <b>13</b>   | <b>14</b><br><i>Pastor Away</i><br>OA 7:30PM                                     | <b>15</b><br>AA 7 PM                       | <b>16</b><br><i>Men's Breakfast 7:30AM</i><br>Thurs. Group 10AM | <b>17</b>                                    | <b>18</b>  |
| <b>19</b><br><i>Pastor Away</i><br>Holy Comm. 9AM<br>Harvest Fair Meeting<br>after service. | <b>20</b>   | <b>21</b><br>OA 7:30PM   | <b>22</b><br>AA 7 PM<br><i>Pastor Back</i> | <b>23</b><br>Thurs. Group 10AM                                  | <b>24</b><br>AA 10 AM                        | <b>25</b><br>AA 7:30PM   |
| <b>26</b><br>Holy Comm. 9AM   | <b>27</b>   | <b>28</b><br><i>Parish Admin. 6:30 PM</i><br><i>Council 7:30 PM</i><br>OA 7:30PM | <b>29</b><br>AA 7 PM                       | <b>30</b><br>Thurs. Group 10AM                                  | <b>31</b><br>AA 10 AM<br><i>Pastor Away</i>  |  |



# August 2009

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

|   |           |  |                                     |  |                       |  |
|---|-----------|--|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
|                                        |           |  |                                     |  |                       |  |
| <b>2</b><br>Pastor Away<br>Holy Comm. 9AM   | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b><br>AA 11:30 AM<br>OA 7:30PM   | <b>5</b><br>AA 7 PM                 | <b>6</b><br>Thurs. Group 10AM                                | <b>7</b><br>AA 10 AM  | <b>8</b><br>AA 7:30 PM                             |
| <b>9</b><br>Pastor Away<br>Holy Comm. 9AM   | <b>10</b> | <b>11</b><br>AA 11:30 AM<br>OA 7:30PM  | <b>12</b><br>Pastor Back<br>AA 7 PM | <b>13</b><br>Thurs. Group 10AM                               | <b>14</b><br>AA 10 AM | <b>15</b><br><b>Epistle Deadline</b><br>AA 7:30 PM |
| <b>16</b><br>Holy Comm. 9AM<br>Lily-Elizabeth Minacci Baptism<br><i>All-Congregation Picnic<br/>after Church Service!</i> | <b>17</b> | <b>18</b><br>AA 11:30 AM<br>OA 7:30PM  | <b>19</b><br>AA 7 PM                | <b>20</b><br>Men's Breakfast<br>7:30 AM<br>Thurs. Group 10AM | <b>21</b><br>AA 10 AM | <b>22</b><br>AA 7:30 PM                            |
| <b>23</b><br>Holy Comm. 9AM<br>FREE Rock Cats Game<br>Faith & Family Day 1:35 PM  | <b>24</b> | <b>25</b><br>AA 11:30 AM<br>Parish Adm.<br>6:30 PM<br>Council 7:30 PM<br>OA 7:30PM               | <b>26</b><br>AA 7 PM                | <b>27</b><br>Thurs. Group 10AM                               | <b>28</b><br>AA 10 AM | <b>29</b><br>AA 7:30 PM                            |
| <b>30</b><br>Holy Comm. 9AM   | <b>31</b> | <b>SUMMER ALL-CHURCH PICNIC!!</b><br><b>SUNDAY, AUGUST 16</b><br><b>AFTER THE CHURCH SERVICE</b> |                                     |  |                       |  |

SAINT  
PAUL'S **Epistle**

SAINT PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

371 Wolcott Hill Road

Wethersfield, CT 06109

[www.stpaulswethersfield.org](http://www.stpaulswethersfield.org)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

### SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

(June 21 through September 6)

Sundays at 9:00 AM

#### OFFICERS AND STAFF

Rev. Hugh R. B. Haffenreffer, Pastor .....Office: (860) 529-5397  
Cell Phone: (860) 966-7360  
*pastorh@stpaulswethersfield.org*  
Office Manager .....Janet Vasel: *janet@stpaulswethersfield.org*  
Council President .....Rick Seip: *rseip@stpaulswethersfield.org*  
Council Vice President .....Jim Newmark: *jnewmark@stpaulswethersfield.org*  
Secretary .....Bill Fischer: *bfischer@stpaulswethersfield.org*  
Treasurer .....Tom Grottke: *tgrottke@stpaulswethersfield.org*  
Financial Sect'y/Bookkeeper .....Mary Procyk: *mprocyk@stpaulswethersfield.org*  
Minister of Music .....Melissa Cheyney  
Superintendent of Sunday Church School .....Alice Rupp

#### REMINDER:

**All Church Picnic: Sunday, August 16 after Church Service!!**

**GOD NEVER TAKES A VACATION FROM US,  
SO LET'S NOT TAKE A VACATION FROM GOD!**

**July & August 2009**