

September 2014

Volume 72, Number 8

SAINT PAUL'S EPISTLE



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Cathy Evans

STAYING CALM IN THE MIDDLE OF A STORM

September is upon us. With it comes a return to two services on Sunday (plus our new Thursday Night worship time), Sunday School activities, evening meetings, fellowship events, and the restarting of much of our “normal” church activities. I don’t know about you, but I never feel that summer—when we get a break from the extreme busyness of the rest of the year—lasts long enough. I like the time it affords me to visit family members I haven’t seen for some time. I like being able to spend my evenings at home. I like the slower pace of things that allows me to rest up a bit. With September upon us, however, that return to a more hectic (and stressful) pace looms as inevitable.

So, how does one stay calm and centered when all of our activities (including those unanticipated emergencies that are certain to come our way) seem like a storm threatening to break upon us? The answer is as simple as it is complex: our calm will *not* be found in trying to wrestle for control over the world “out there.” It will *only* be found as we deepen our trust in, and relationship to, Jesus. It will only be found in our “letting go” and “letting God.” And this deepening of trust and relationship—our spiritual work—will only happen if we make space and time in our lives for it. True peace (like true joy) is not a destination; it is the journey itself.

If our activities and projects rise out of a deep trust in Jesus and a desire to fulfill his will for our lives, then our actions and activities will not overwhelm. They will be more a kind of prayer or an act of devotion. They will be connected to the One who brings us calm in the midst of storms, and promises us rest when we are weary. If, however, they are a result of anything other than a faithful response to Jesus’ calling—such as our attempt to prove ourselves to others, or a sense of guilt or obligation—they will only add to the stormy cacophony (a harsh, discordant, and enveloping noise) that can disorient and drain us.

On Sunday mornings and Thursday nights we will offer three opportunities to deepen our relationship with Jesus. We will continue to offer a powerful bible study on Thursday mornings that is for *anyone* wanting to make faith real in their lives. Our fellowship group, Grateful Faithful, our reading group, Church Chapters, offer opportunities for the same. In deed, all that we will be doing together throughout the year will have one common purpose: to deepen our relationship with Jesus and one another, in order to better respond to God’s call to live (calmly) as light in a darkening world.

So, with that promise in mind, let the Fall begin!

Pastor Hugh

WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Sundays at 8 and 10:30 AM; Thursdays at 7 PM

NEWS & NOTES

ALTAR GUILD A CALL FOR HELP!

Everyone will agree that communion is a special part of our church service, but volunteers are needed to have the Lord's Table ready in order for us to partake.

An overview of the responsibilities includes preparing the altar a day or two before Sunday (usually on Saturday and done at your convenience). This setup takes only about 30-40 minutes. Sunday morning responsibilities would include putting out the wine, grape juice and bread before the service. Following the second service the communion items are cleared, cleaned and put away. With enough members, we can have two on a team to lighten the work. For those that go to the early service, you could be paired with someone that attends the second service. The Sunday's you serve are flexible with your schedule and exchanging Sundays or substitutes are options.

I hope you find that serving our church in this way will be meaningful, and you will give Altar Guild a try. Please call me if you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions.

Thank you -

Deb Howe
860-529-8583

THE ST. PAUL'S CHOIR NEEDS YOU!

Please come join our choir and share in the faith, fellowship and fun. New members are always welcome. Our rehearsals are Wednesday evenings, 7:30 – 9:00, and we meet Sunday mornings at 9:45. We are flexible for people with busy schedules. No experience? No problem! It's never too late to sing. Come and help us spread the Word through music!

SAVE THE DATE! HOLIDAY FAIR

**Saturday November 22, 2014
9AM – 2PM**

Come one, Come all.....

*To a Holiday Fair planning meeting on:
Sunday Sept. 14th @ 9:00 a.m.*

Planning for St. Paul's highly anticipated annual Holiday Fair is well underway. We would love to have you join us to share your thoughts and ideas. Chairpersons are needed for various booths. We will also discuss where the money should be distributed. The lists of proposed benefitting charities are: Smile Train, Wethersfield Social/Youth Services and Special Needs, Low Vision Center – New Britain, Chrysalis Center – Hartford, ELCA, and Autism Families CONNECTicut. If you would like to learn more about the Fair, participate on Fair Day, share your time, talent(s), and treasure(s) please considering joining us on **Sunday Sept. 14th @ 9:00 a.m.** as we continue to prepare for this year's Fair.

Please Note: Donations are currently being accepted for Grandma's Attic, as well as items for the country store. Crafters are needed to help assemble homemade craft items.

All Are Welcome!

Thank you,
The Holiday Fair Committee
Wm. Fischer, Chairperson

THE ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE COMES TO ST. PAUL'S

On Sunday, August 17, Pastor Hugh fulfilled the Ice Bucket Challenge given to him by his sister-in-law, Sophia. He did so in support of two people important to him who are living with ALS ("Lou Gehrig's Disease"): his brother-in-law, Marc Abrahams, and his brother-in-Christ, Bob Houseman. He challenged both Stephanie Lohmann and William Fischer, Jr. They immediately stepped forward and, with some assistance, fulfilled their challenge much to the delight of those gathered to watch. Challenge donations will be made in support of research to find a cure for ALS, as well as direct financial support for Bob Houseman to help defray some of the mounting expenses that are the result of this disease.



Above: Stephanie Lohmann (right) and Bill Fischer, Jr. (left) fulfill their challenge (with a little help from their friends).

Left: Pastor Hugh fulfilling the Ice Bucket Challenge.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU WANT TO SHARE A GREAT CAUSE WITH THE PEOPLE OF ST. PAUL'S

There are many, *many* good causes that are worth supporting. And St. Paul's, as a congregation, does a lot to support many of these. Unfortunately, we are not able to support every request that comes our way. If we did, our efforts would be spread so thinly that we would not be able to make a difference to any particular one. It is our official policy, for the sake of good stewardship and to stay focused on our primary mission, that all formal requests for financial or other support for a particular cause be approved by the appropriate ministry team, which operates under the guidance and oversight of the congregation council. This will ensure that any new cause or ministry receives appropriate consideration, is in line with our mission as a church of Christ, and is given the necessary resources (time, communication, financial support, volunteer support, etc.) to ensure its success.

If you have become aware of any particular issue or cause that you feel should be shared with the people of St. Paul's, please begin by sharing your information with any of the following: the chair of the appropriate ministry team, any member of council (who will bring the issue to the next council meeting for discussion and appropriate action), or, if you aren't sure who to contact, tell Pastor Hugh and he'll be sure it is forwarded to the appropriate individual or team.

Thanks!

GRATEFUL FAITHFUL

Focusing on the Good News

The Grateful Faithfuls are regrouping and looking for ways to reach out to those in need. Our focus is on the Gospel - how we can apply it to our lives and bring the Good News out into the world.

Come and join us at our next meeting, Tuesday, September 16th at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, and see what we are all about.

etcetera...

EMAIL THANK YOU NOTE TO CAROLE HUGHES

July 17, 2014 - Carole, I am embarrassed by the length of time it's taken me to respond to your exceedingly kind and unexpected note regarding the collection taken up by the members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. I can't thank you enough for citing *Finding David* as the inspiration for the collection and I have to tell you it warmed my heart. I wrote *Finding David* for two reasons: the first, to honor my friend David Kirk; the second, admittedly, as a cathartic exercise that helped me to bring some closure to his senseless death even all these years later. Little did I know or expect that the novel would bring such attention to PTSD and the deplorable treatment the young men and women who serve our country receive when they need [good treatment] the most.

My congratulations to you and the members of the Church for such a successful collection. Every little bit helps. FYI, I'm going to be featured on a Cox Community program ... called "Page 1" tonight on Channel 15 at 8 pm and in August on a CPTV program entitled "Connecticut Connections", also on Channel 15 on each Wed. of the month at 8 pm. Both programs deal with the writing of *Finding David*. Hope you get a chance to tune in.

Once again, Thank you, Gary, and the members of the Church, for your efforts, and above all, for helping people remember my young friend.

Best to you always,
Mark (Granato)

OUR "THANK YOU" TO (AND PRAYERS FOR) BRIAN BECKWITH

Recently, Brian Beckwith shared with the congregation council his need to step down as President. His reason for doing so is due to a knee injury that requires him to stay off his feet as much as possible for the next month or so. There's a real possibility that he will be "out of service" for a good while longer than that.

It is impossible to quantify the gratitude that the people of St. Paul's have for Brian. He has served this congregation well for many, many years and in a variety of ways. Our prayers are for a speedy recovery and with the hope that he will be able to re-engage in our congregation's mission as soon as his health (specifically his knee) allows.

Thank you Brian! Our love and prayers are with you during this time of healing!

Succeeding Brian as President is Debbie Viola. Russ Bengtson has agreed to serve as our Vice President.

Thank you to both Debbie and Russ for agreeing to serve this congregation in these new roles!

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

(Starting Sept. 7)

Sunday mornings: Spoken liturgy at 8 AM;
Full liturgy with choir at 10:30 AM

Thursday evenings: Non-traditional service at 7 PM

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS Greater Hartford Conference - Sat., October 4, 2014

As part of the Greater Hartford Conference, St. Paul's will be involved in the "God's Work, Our Hands" day of service. Just how we will be involved is yet to be determined.

As the various opportunities for service become clarified, we will be sure to let you know. The Greater Hartford Conference will be launching a website soon with descriptions of all the options available and information on how to be involved.

SUNDAY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Summer's nearly over and that means the Fall Schedule is starting back up. With it comes the start of Sunday Church School. Here are some of the important dates and times to mark in your calendars now.

- Sunday School Planning Mtg.
Tuesday, Sept. 2, 7 pm
- Sunday School Parent Mtg.
Tuesday, Sept. 9, 7 pm

Sunday School will begin on Sept. 14, immediately following the installation of our Sunday School volunteers (at the beginning of the service).

Save the Date: Vacation Bible Camp Presentation, Sunday Oct. 5 during the 10:30 am service. Pictures and music to highlight our Vacation Bible Camp experience!

ST. PAUL'S GIVING TREE

Our Giving Tree focus for the month of September is on Utilities. It takes a lot to keep St. Paul's up and running – electricity for lights, gas for heat, and water in our faucets. Think for a moment on all that can happen in our church building because we pay our utility bills. This probably isn't our most exciting focus but one that definitely needs your support. Please consider making a donation towards these items.

Giving Tree envelopes have been placed in the pews in church to make it easier to place in the offering plate during Sunday Worship.

As always, the Giving Tree remains in the Fellowship Hall with many leaves to choose that include other areas of our Ministry that will be a focus in the upcoming months. Any amount will be greatly appreciated! THANK YOU!!

If you have any questions, please give Sue Agne a call (860-563-0776).

CHURCH



CHAPTERS

We are excited to be starting the third year of Church Chapters. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month to share our thoughts about the monthly book. Books are made available at the Wethersfield Public Library a few weeks before our meeting. The first meeting of the new reading year will be on Tuesday, September 9th at 6:30 at Sue Agne's house. We will meet to discuss the book *The Yellow House* by Patricia Falvey. Amazon describes the book like this:

THE YELLOW HOUSE delves into the passion and politics of Northern Ireland at the beginning of the 20th Century. Eileen O'Neill's family is torn apart by religious intolerance and secrets from the past. Determined to reclaim her ancestral home and reunite her family, Eileen begins working at the local mill, saving her money and holding fast to her dream. As war is declared on a local and global scale, Eileen cannot separate the politics from the very personal impact the conflict has had on her own life.

Upcoming titles include:

October: *Winter Garden* by Kristen Hannah (at the home of Carol Hughes)

November: *The Lady and the Unicorn* by Tracy Chevalier

December/January – *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor

We hope you will join us - give it a try - come see what our book club is all about! If you have any questions, please call Sue Agne (860-563-0776).

St. Paul's MEMBERS IN SERVICE for SEPTEMBER 2014

ACOLYTES:

Sept 7 - Breen Bernard10:30AM
14 - Cameron Cheyney10:30AM
21 - Bryce Gentino10:30AM
28 - Brayson Bernard10:30AM

ALTAR GUILD:

Debbie Howe, Coordinator, 860-529-8583

Sept 7 - Deb Howe & Donna Camillo
14 - Bob Bowman & Bill Fischer Jr.
21 - Tracy Newmark & Patty Bengtson
28 - Jennie Dotts & Deb Howe

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

Sept 7 - TBD8:00 AM
Kathy Coyle10:30 AM
14 - Patty Bengtson8:00AM
Kathy Coyle10:30AM
21 - Debbie Viola8:00AM
Jerry Vaillancourt10:30AM
28 - Art Bruce8:00AM
William Fischer Jr.10:30AM

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Sue Agne, Coordinator, 860-563-0776

Sept 7 - Mike Coyle
14 - Curt Leonard
21 - Carole Hughes
28 - Sue Agne

TAPING:

Jan Pergande, Coordinator, 860-644-2888

Sept - Dave Bayek

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:

Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 860-529-7588

Sept 7 - Lillian Doerschler & Winnie Sawrun
14 - Patty Granger & Alan Niederfringer
21 - Debbie & George Howe
28 - Mike & Kathy Coyle

FINANCE:

Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 860-257-4793

Sept 7 - Dick Agne
14 - Kathy DiMartino
21 - Lois Way
28 - Bob Bowman

LECTORS:

Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 860-529-1939

Sept 7 - Jeanette Serafine
14 - Lillian Doerschler
21 - Lillian Doerschler
28 - Dave Bayek

USHERS:

Brian Beckwith, Coordinator; 8 AM, 860-563-4066

Sept - Suzanne McDonald

Louise Lostocco, Coordinator, 10:30AM, 860-529-3079

Sept 7 - Dick Kratzer & Russ Bengtson
14 - Dick Agne & George Howe
21 - Dick Agne & Curt Leonard
28 - Deb Howe & Curt Leonard

Don't forget: Our "regular" worship schedule returns on Sept. 7th with two Sunday services: 8 and 10:30 AM.

SEPTEMBER 2014 | EVENT CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 Labor Day	2 Sunday Sch Planning Mtg 7 PM	3 AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir Starts 7:30 PM Cub Scouts 8 PM	4 Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Pot Luck Luncheon Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM	5 AA 10:00 AM	6 AA 7:30 PM
7 Pentecost 13 <i>Family Sunday</i> Holy Comm. 8 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Outreach Mtg. 12 PM	8	9 Church Chapters 6:30 PM Sunday Sch Parent Mtg 7 PM	10 AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	11 Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM	12 AA 10:00 AM	13 AA 7:30 PM
14 Holy Cross Sunday Sunday School Begins! Holy Comm. 8 AM Holiday Fair Mtg 9 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM	15	16 Grateful Faithful 7 PM	17 AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	18 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM	19 AA 10:00 AM	20 AA 7:30 PM
21 Pentecost 15 Holy Comm. 8 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM	22	23 Parish Admin. 6:30 PM Ch. Council 7:30 PM	24 AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	25 Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM	26 AA 10:00 AM	27 AA 7:30 PM
28 Pentecost 16 Holy Comm. 8 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM	29	30	Calendar Highlights and Upcoming Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School Planning Mtg., Tuesday, Sept. 2, 7 PM • Sunday School Parent Mtg., Tuesday, Sept. 9, 7 PM • God's Work, Our Hands, Ctr. Htfd. Day of Service Oct. 4 • Atwater-Donnelly Concert Oct. 26, 3 PM 			

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