

SAINT PAUL'S Epistle

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

May 2009

Volume 67, Number 5

FROM EASTER TO PENTECOST: SETTING OUR SOULS ON FIRE

The painting on this page, entitled "Pentecost," is by El Greco, a Spanish painter who was born in 1541 and died in 1614. He probably painted this between 1596 and 1600 as a part of a larger commission for the Colegio de Doña Maria which included his "Resurrection."

This painting reminds me of my youth and the image I had as a child when I was told about the story of Pentecost from Acts 2. The flames of fire above the disciples' heads always captured my imagination. And, because I was young and *literal* in my understanding of things, I always wondered why their *hair* didn't burst into flames, too.

I realize now that the fire that the Holy Spirit sent would set not hair but *souls* on fire. When, in Luke 24, the disciples who encountered Jesus on the road to Emmaus listened as the Lord "opened the scriptures" to them, we are told that their hearts *burned within them*. In other words, their souls were on fire with a passion to follow wherever the Lord called.

It is still the season of Easter, as I write this meditation. This month is bookended by some extraordinary opportunities for the people of St. Paul's. We begin the month (May 3rd) by prayerfully voting on which three goals (out of the ten you have discerned) we believe God is calling us to pursue as we move into our future. Very exciting!

In a few weeks, Saturday, May 16 (from 5:00 to 7:30PM) we will gather for our 4th (and last) Visioning Potluck. At that gathering the Vision Team will "unveil"

those three goals that will guide us as we reshape our ministries to better prepare us for our future. These

goals will be the ones that we *together* have discerned. At that gathering you will be invited to become part of an Implementation Team that will be responsible for taking a goal and turning it into reality. Also, very exciting!

Then, on Sunday, May 31, Pentecost Sunday, we will gather in worship, not only to commemorate that moment when God's Spirit was first poured out on Jesus' disciples gathered in Jerusalem 50 days after the Resurrection of our Lord, we will gather also to invoke that same Holy Spirit to empower and lead this congregation in powerfully new way. Those who have felt the call to be part of an Implementation Team will receive the prayers and blessing of the whole congregation.

While the visioning part of our journey may be complete, the real work, the work of the Holy Spirit, has just begun.

During this Easter Season and throughout Pentecost, may God's Holy Spirit come alive in us all and in all that we do. May our hearts and our lives,

our very *souls*, be *set on fire*.

Pastor Hugh Haffrenreffer

OUR VISION PROCESS DATES

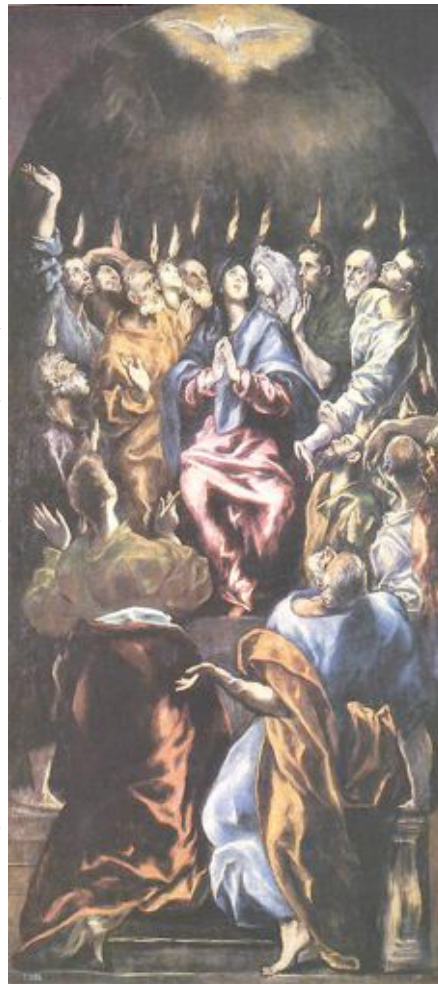
Sunday, May 3, we vote on our top 3 goals

Saturday, May 16, 5PM, final Visioning Potluck.

Implementation Teams are created.

Pentecost Sunday, May 31, we celebrate our

Vision and pray for and bless the work of our Implementation Teams.



SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE FOR MAY

On Sunday, May 17, our Sunday School Children will share a Noah's Ark skit during our worship service. Please plan to attend this service and show your support for our children!

On Sunday, May 24, there will be no Sunday School.

ASCENSION SERVICES AT EMANUEL HARTFORD

This coming Ascension Day, Thursday, May 21, at 7PM, the Greater Hartford Conference will join for a celebration of the Ascension, the day when we celebrate Jesus ascension into heaven.

The celebration will take place at Emanuel Lutheran Church, 311 Capitol Ave., Hartford. Those who wish to carpool may talk with Pastor Hugh.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The 22nd Annual Assembly of the New England Synod, ELCA, will be held May 28-30, 2009, at the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center, 366 Main Street (Route 20), Sturbridge, Massachusetts. This year's theme is "God's Work. Our Hands. Treasure in Clay Jars."

Our keynote speaker this year is Kelly Fryer, a theologian who we already know as writer of "No Experience Necessary: Everybody's Welcome," a bible study published by Augsburg Fortress Publishers in 2005. She is also co-founder of "A Renewal Enterprise, Inc." (ARE), an organization which helps people "to engage work and world with purpose and passion."

Guest representative from the ELCA is Pastor Gemechis Buba, who works with African National Ministries, planting, renewing, and expanding African immigrant churches.

Pastor Hugh will be accompanied by Les and Emily Lourigan.

A MOTHER'S DAY STORY

A little boy came up to his mother in the kitchen one evening while she was fixing supper, and handed her a piece of paper that he had been writing on. After his Mom dried her hands on an apron, she read it, and this is what it said:

For cutting the grass: \$5.00
For cleaning up my room this week: \$1.00
For going to the store for you: \$.50
Baby-sitting my kid brother while you went shopping: \$.25
Taking out the garbage: \$1.00
For getting a good report card: \$5.00
For cleaning up and raking the yard: \$2.00
Total owed: \$14.75

Well, his mother looked at him standing there, and the

boy could see the memories flashing through her mind. She picked up the pen, turned over the paper he'd written on, and this is what she wrote:

√For the nine months I carried you while you were growing inside me: No Charge
√For all the nights that I've sat up with you, doctored and prayed for you: No Charge
√For all the trying times, and all the tears that you've caused through the years: No Charge
√For all the nights that were filled with dread, and for the worries I knew were ahead: No Charge
√For the toys, food, clothes, and even wiping your nose: No Charge
√Son, when you add it up, the cost of my love is:
No Charge.

When the boy finished reading what his mother had written, there were big tears in his eyes, and he looked straight at his mother and said, "Mom, I sure do love you." And then he took the pen and in great big letters he wrote: "PAID IN FULL".

Happy Mother's Day, Moms!

SOUND SYSTEM UPDATE

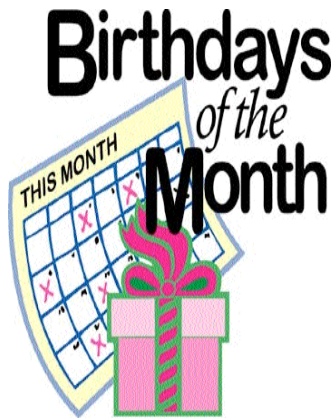
Great News! Former members, Joe and Nancy Drago read our previous *Epistle* and have responded to our need for a new sound system. They will pay for the cost of upgrading to one that will serve us the best! Prayers are answered!

Thanks to Joe and Nancy for their overwhelming generosity.

In the meantime, until we have the new system: Please remember to power down your cell phones and other electronic devices during worship!



- 2 Jeremiah Bengtson
- 5 N. H. Caughman
- 5 Cheri England
- 7 Louise Lostocco
- 7 Dot Vanturas
- 9 Russell Bengtson
- 9 AnneMarie Grottke
- 10 Linda Anderson
- 10 Harriett Fritsch
- 10 Helen Peterson
- 10 Jennifer Farley
- 12 Jacob Turek
- 21 Shirley King
- 21 Mark Olson
- 28 Elizabeth Baumgartel
- 29 Robert Bowman
- 29 Joan Kratzer
- 30 Jerry Vaillancourt



A Retreat for St. Paul's Women
"The Healing Power of Hope"

Saturday June 13 @ St. Paul's
 9:30 AM ~ 4 PM
 A time to share experiencis, to focus on HOPE and its impact on our lives.

Cost: \$15.00 includes a lunch.
 Please contact Ellie Bentson, 666-7877 or Carol Farley, 828-5306.

**SERVICE OPPORTUNITY
 AT SOUTH PARK INN**

WEDNESDAY: MAY 6th, 2009 AT 4:30 pm

This oppotuniy is open to the THE FIRST 10 PARTICIPANTS TO REPLY and are willing to share their love with those less fortunate.

WE WILL MEET AT CHURCH NO LATER THAN 4:30 PM TO RIDE TOGETHER OVER TO THE SOUTH PARK INN HOMELESS SHELTER AND SERVE DINNER AT THE INN.

Contact Jim Newmark at (860) 231-2769 or by james.newmark@goodrich.com

Youth Fundraiser Tag Sale

Saturday May 16th 9 AM - 2 PM

Donate your gently used treasures. NO clothes, books or furniture. Contact Debbie Viola with any questions, 529-5051.



On March 16, 2009 **Richard (Dick) Stahl**, died after a seven month battle with melanoma. Dick leaves his wife Nancy, a former secretary and Sunday school teacher of St. Paul's. Son: Mark & wife Amber & their children Amber, Leigh, & Daniella. Son: Brett & wife Heidi & their children Michaeli & Nicholas. Son: Benjamin & wife Heather and their son Logan.

The Stahls were active members at St.Pauls from 1964-1974. We remember and pray for them in their time of loss.

For well wishes:
 Nancy Stahl (Mrs. Richard)
 4322 Elliott Rd.
 Hilliard, Ohio 43026

~

On Thursday, April 30, our brother **Jon Strecker** passed away after a long-term battle with pancreatic cancer. We keep his wife Elaine, and daughter, Sara, in our prayers. Jon's perpetually positive outlook was contagious, and he will be dearly missed.

ST. PAUL'S MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR May 2009

ACOLYTES:

Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094

- May 3 - Gretchen Schultz
10 - Jaimie Piscitello
17 - Katie Grottke
24 - Kaitlin Anderson
31 - Jay Viola

ALTAR GUILD:

Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094

- May 3 - Mary Procyk & Cindy Seip
10 - Ann French & Winnie Sawrun
17 - Jennie Dotts & Betty Lamo
24 - Ann Baledes & Elaine Strecker
31 - Anderson's

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

Coordinator

- May 3 - Art Bruce - 8:00
Patty Bengtson - 10:30
10 - Emily Lourigan - 8:00
Mary Procyk - 10:30
17 - Jim Newmark - 8:00
Jerry Vaillancourt - 10:30
24 - Jim Nemark - 8:00
Bill Fischer - 10:30
31 - Patty Bengtson - 8:00
Jerry Vaillancourt - 10:30

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Sue Agne, Coordinator, 563-0776

- May 3 - Carole Hughes
10 - Walter Ruppap
17 - Joan Kratzer
24 - Carole Hughes
31 - Mike Coyle

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:

Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 529-7588

- May 3 - Christine & Rich Intravia
10 - Mike & Kathy Coyle
17 - Helen Peterson & Harriet Fritsch
24 - Pam Speno & Carol Farley
31 - Cindy Seip

FINANCE:

Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 257-4793

- May 3 - Harriett Fritsch
10 - Betty Lamo
17 - Cindy Seip
24 - Bob Bowman
31 - Debbie Viola

LECTORS:

Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 529-1939

- May 3 - Kyla Anderson
10 - Mary Procyk
17 - David Bayek
24 - Lillian Doerschler
31 - Joan Kratzer

NURSERY:

Ann French, Coordinator, 529-3245

- May 3 - Margaret & Roxanne DeBlois
10 - Julie & Matt Perry
17 - Julie & Matt Perry
24 - *volunteer needed*
31 - Julie & Matt Perry

TAPING MINISTRY:

Coordinator

- May - Jan Pergande

USHERS:

Brian Beckwith, Coordinator, 8AM, 563-4066

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

- May Brian Beckwith - 8:00
3 - Walter Ruppap & Bob Durkin - 10:30
10 - Bernice Noeker & Allen Piscitello
17 - Walter Ruppap & Bob Bowman
24 - Walter Ruppap & Art Bruce
31 - Walter Ruppap & Ken Schultz

May 2009



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Holy Comm. 8:00 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM	<p><i>As we draw closer to Pentecost, we come closer to finalizing our Vision for our Future.</i></p> <p>Please MARK YOUR CALENDARS and plan to attend our Celebrating Our Vision Potluck on Saturday, May 16th!</p>					2 AA 7:30 PM
10 Mothers' Day Holy Comm. 8:00 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM	4	5 Outreach Comm. Meeting 7:30 PM OA 7:30 PM	6 Bible Study 10:30 AM S. Park Inn 4:30 PM Youth Potluck 5:30PM Conf. Class 6:15 PM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	7 Thur. Grp. 10 AM	8 AA 10 AM	9 AA 7:30 PM
17 Holy Comm. 8:00 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Gavin James Power Baptism & Sunday School's Noah's Ark Skit during 10:30 Service	11 Scouts downstairs 6-9 PM	12 Worship & Music 7:30 PM OA 7:30 PM	13 Bible Study 10:30 AM Conf. Class 6:15 PM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	14 Thur. Grp. 10 AM Vision Team Meeting: 6:30 PM	15 AA 10 AM Epistle Deadline	16 Youth Tag Sale 9-2 Celebrating our Vision Potluck 5PM NO AA MEETING
24 Holy Comm. 8:00 AM No Sunday School Holy Comm. 10:30 AM	18	19 OA 7:30 PM	20 Bible Study 10:30 AM Youth Pizza 5:30PM Conf. Class 6:15 PM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	21 Ascension Day 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast Thur. Grp. 10 AM Ascension Service at Emanuel Hfhd 7PM	22 AA 10 AM	23 AA 7:30 PM
31 Pentecost Sunday Celebrating our Vision in the Power of God's Spirit Holy Comm. 8:00 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM	25 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	26 Par. Adm. 6:30 PM Council 7:30 PM OA 7:30 PM	27 Bible Study 10:30 AM Confm. Class 6:15 PM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	28 Thur. Grp. 10 AM New England Synod Assembly, Sturbridge	29 AA 10 AM	30 AA 7:30 PM
<p>On Pentecost Sunday, May 31 we will formally adopt and celebrate the vision that God has given us for that will guide us into our future. Please plan to attend!!</p>						



SAINT PAUL'S **Epistle**

SAINT PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

371 Wolcott Hill Road

Wethersfield, CT 06109

www.stpaulswethersfield.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Worship at 8:00 and 10:30AM
SCS & Adult Ed. at 9:00AM

OFFICERS AND STAFF
Rev. Hugh R. B. Haffenreffer, Pastor.....Office: (860) 529-5397
Cell Phone: (860) 966-7360
pastorh@stpaulswethersfield.org
Office ManagerJanet Vasel: *janet@stpaulswethersfield.org*
Council President.....Rick Seip
TreasurerTom Grottke
Financial Sect'yMary Procyk
Minister of MusicMelissa Cheyney
Superintendent of Sunday Church School.....Alice Ruppard

REMINDERS:

Saturday, May 16, Final "Celebrating Our Vision" Potluck: 5PM
Pentecost Sunday: May 31: Celebrating our Vision
in the Power of God's Spirit