

SAINT PAUL'S Epistle

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September 2008

Volume 66, Number 8

WHAT KIND OF KING IS JESUS?

On the south wall of our church nave (the place where people sit in the church) we find the “Christ the King” window. It’s the one pictured on this page and is the second window from the door leading to the Fellowship Hall. The symbol of Christ the King invariably involves two symbols joined together, a crown (symbolizing ruling authority) and the empty cross (symbolizing Jesus’ death and resurrection).

It can seem rather anachronistic to many to refer to Jesus as our “king,” especially in those parts of the world where democracy is our way of governance and kings are merely a part of our past history. For Americans, kings were those from whom we fled or against whom we waged a revolution in the search of freedom. Throughout history kings have been more a source of tyranny than they have been a source of blessing. A king, by virtue of his position within a nation, held absolute power over his subjects. His will was their law. Their lives and property were his to do with as suited his whims. If a political opponent was identified, a king would likely imprison or, more often than not, *kill* the rival. And while modern monarchies have for the most part become tamed by national constitutions—think the monarchies of the United Kingdom, Denmark, or Spain—those that existed in Jesus’ day were despotic and absolute.

So, why call Jesus “king”? Perhaps you will remember the sign that was fixed above Jesus as he hung dying on the cross. According to John’s Gospel it read in Hebrew, Latin and Greek, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” In Latin it would have read:

IESVS·NAZARENVS·REX·IVDÆORVM

By taking the first letter of each word you get the

acronym, “INRI”, which is often found on the altar cross, the altar, or elsewhere in a church.

While we disciples of Jesus would look at the inscription and say that Pilate unwittingly got it *right*—indeed Jesus’ *was* a true king—for Jesus’ contemporaries this sign was a charge of political treason. By claiming that Jesus was a true king he became an immediate political threat to the Jewish king Herod Agrippa and to the Roman Empire.

And as I said earlier, such rivalry was dealt with by deadly force—in this case, death by crucifixion.

And here comes the reason why the title, “Christ the King”, is not just a *title* but a sign of our hope: it is through that death, which Jesus’ willingly and obediently accepted, that you and I have been given a faith and hope that is stronger than death itself. Jesus *could* have rallied the troops with the aim of overthrowing the Roman Empire and seizing political power for himself and his followers. Had he done so, he might have been able to establish an earthly rule that would have lasted a life time. But in rejecting military power for sacrificial love, his rule will last an eternity. And we, his subjects, open to his command to love, are given the privilege and empowerment to extend his rule to the very ends of the earth.

Hugh R. B. Haffrenreffer



FROM WORSHIP & MUSIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE

On September 7th we return to our autumn schedule of 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Sunday services.

At the 10:30 AM service, we will be using SETTING 4 in the ELW. This was formerly known as Setting 2 in the Lutheran Book of Worship. This will carry us through the fall and early winter.

DAN HUBE'S RESTORATION GIFT

Under the large beech tree in the church parking lot grows an island garden. It was built many years ago by our then young people with the help from adults. Atop the garden is an old water pump which the Hube Family rescued from the property when our Parish Education building was constructed. The working pump was behind the Griswold House which was our original chapel.

No longer working, the pump sits by the little "pond" atop our stone wall. Recently Dan Hube restored the pump to its original color. Dan tells us that color was Wimbledon Blue.

On behalf of the congregation: Thank you, Dan, for your handiwork and dedication and for the beauty you have brought us in preserving a bit of our church history.

Lillian Doerschler



As happens every year, the Wednesday after Labor Day (this year Sept 3rd) is the start of choir rehearsals. Each Wednesday night from 7:30-9 PM you are invited, more strongly *urged*, to join our group in the joy of having Melissa Cheyney take an anthem from its early attempts at music to a glorious proud tribute to the Lord. Adults and youth are welcomed.

LOST AND FOUND

Not exactly, but there *are* many dishes, platters and bowls in the Parish Ed. Kitchen which were used when people brought their generous food items to the church. If you have forgotten to pick yours up, please

check the kitchen (on top of the freezer?) for it. Also, a brown leather jacket has been hanging in the hall outside the kitchen.



SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL MEETING

Do you have ideas that will help our Sunday School to grow? The group of students seems to be getting smaller in numbers. There are some children who do not attend at all.

Please come to a meeting on Thursday, September 4 at 7PM to explore how to help us grow.

Christian Education is an important part of the many ministries of St. Paul's.

Questions: talk with Alice Ruppap (721-6455) or Pastor Hugh.

Sunday School resumes on September 14. Everyone is invited to attend and participate in the game, "Are you smarter than a Sunday School Student?"

Thank you,
Alice Ruppap

BREAD UPDATE

"Herman", The Amish Friendship Bread will return in September after a much needed vacation for the bakers. From February to the end of June, \$1,440 was raised from bread sales for the Stained Glass Window Fund. It was also a great pleasure to give bread as gifts to a number of St. Paul's families.

From September to the end of December we hope to raise an equal amount to reach a total goal of \$3,000.

We count on your support.

Thanks!
Ellie Bengtson

Dear St. Paul's Family,

Thank you for your loving support and prayers. It is a comfort to our whole family to know that you are there for us during this extremely difficult time in our lives. St. Paul's held a special place in Richie's heart which even though he wasn't always able to express I know it was always there. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers.

Midge, Haley and Paige Carlson

STAINED GLASS WINDOW UPDATE

The refurbishing of the stained glass windows has been completed and they look wonderful. Plus, the windows can now be opened with screens to prevent unwanted insects from flying into the church! Many people are wondering how we stand financially on paying for the windows. The numbers are as follows:

\$76,833.25 total cost of the windows (paid)

\$34,738.00 total donations (as of 8/10/08)

\$42,095.25 remaining debt (owed to endowment funds)

\$1,440 of the donations was raised by Ellie B. and her team of bakers in selling Herman, the friendship bread. Thank you, Ellie! You and your team are an inspiration to us all!

We will continue to take donations until the debt is completely paid off. On the original pledges made in the autumn of 2007, there was no specific date to begin or end. Each person was able to specify anything they wanted, and most chose to make a one-time gift.

MORE NOTES FROM WORSHIP AND MUSIC

World Community Day on November 7, 2008 to be hosted by Church Women United Hartford, CT The theme is "God's Wisdom Sets Us Free".

More information to come soon.

The next meeting of the **Worship and Music** committee will be Sept. 16th at 730PM. If you are the chairperson of any of the committees that comprise Worship and Music please plan to be at this meeting. Bring ideas, thoughts, and concerns.

Sunday Fellowship Hour for 2009

Winnie Sawrun will be calling all volunteers to set up the schedule for 2009. Many thanks go out to all who have given their time and occasional home made goodies to make coffee hour show the warm caring side of St. Paul's people. Lutherans *do* run on coffee!

Our window fund is growing slowly. If you haven't pledged to help with renovation costs, please decide to pick up a pledge card now. Its not too late to make a donation. The total amount collected to date is \$34,738. Thanks to all who have given generously.

Reprinted from the Summer Epistle:

PROFESSIONS, TALENTS, AND HOBBIES DIRECTORY

St. Paul's publishes a "Membership Directory" that includes names, addresses, phone numbers and even email addresses. What if we created a supplemental directory that included things like a person's profession, their talents and expertise, their passions and hobbies? Not only would this help us to get to know one another better, but it would also allow us to call on each other in the event we needed professional help with something.

Are you an attorney, carpenter, knitter, artist of any kind, caterer, repair person, handyman or handywoman, weaver, care-giver, plumber, electrician, retired business person, baker, publisher, business owner, landscaper, designer, accountant, web designer, musician, floral designer, babysitter, typist, reader, retreat leader, listener . . . or anything else not mentioned here? Please share the gifts with which God has blessed you with those of us who can then share our gifts with you.

If you want to have this kind of information included in a supplemental directory, please email me with this information to emilyandles@cox.net.

Thank you all for being in my life and sharing your gifts with me. In the joy of God's presence in our lives,

Emily Lourigan

CONFIRMATION CLASS

STARTS WITH AN ORIENTATION MEETING WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, AT 6:15PM

Starting Wednesday, September 17 at 6:15PM, St. Paul's will begin a new Confirmation Class. All present 7th through 9th Graders will come together each Wednesday to grow in their faith and relationship to God, and to grow in their understanding of their calling to discipleship within the Church.

On the 17th, there will be an orientation meeting for all confirmands and their parents. There we will go over the curriculum, expectations, calendar dates, and the like.

If you have any questions, please feel free to talk with Pastor Hugh.

OUTREACH NEWS

As we all know from the higher cost of everything, more and more people are in need of help with basic expenses such as food, gas and, in a couple months, heat. Our efforts here at St. Paul's to assist those in need of food have helped many families in the area through our distribution to individuals, families and agencies.

Although as a Foodshare member we're able to buy a variety of food items at a very low rate, we are especially thankful for the always overwhelming, never ending generosity of our congregation. Over the past several months, as so often over the years, food and personal care items, paper products and cash have been donated to help us in this ministry. This helps us to stretch our budget!

All we can say is a heartfelt and sincere "thank you"!

Outreach Committee

FINANCE - COUNTERS NEEDED

The third quarter report on your contributions will come out in October. Please check it to make sure you are on track and everything is accurate before the end of the year.

Are you looking for another way to serve the church? If you like working with figures (or maybe just don't mind numerical calculations), this is an opportunity for you. On a given Sunday it requires one to two hours of time to open all of the envelopes, add the items up on the calculator and make the weekly deposit to the bank. I need more counters right now because I try to have enough counters so that each person has only four Sundays per year. If you will give it a try, you will be given as much help/instructions as you want until you feel comfortable doing it on your own. If you would like to give it a try, please call or see me before Thanksgiving.

A huge thank you to my many faithful counters. Without you, it would not be possible!!

God bless you.

*Mary Procyk
Financial Secretary*

OUTREACH FAIR

NOVEMBER 15, 2008:

As we near the end of summer the Outreach Fair Committee (OFC) would like to invite all congregants to bring in selected items that they wish to donate for this year's fair.

Suggested items are:

- Books/Records/Tapes/CDs/DVDs/Artwork
- Jewelry
- Stuffed Animals
- House Plants
- Decorative items
- Knick Knacks
- Toys
- Other household items

All items should be in gently used or loved condition. Donated items can be dropped-off in the Fellowship Hall.

PLEASE NOTE - WE ARE NOT ACCEPTING HEAVY OBJECTS, EXPENSIVE HEIRLOOMS AND CLOTHING

If you would like further information about the 2008 Fair please see or contact:

Carol Farley: 828-5306

William Fischer: 721-9031

Debbie Viola: 529-5051

The OFC is also looking for youths that are willing to share their musical talents during the lunch hours. If you are interested or know someone who may be interested in performing, please contact one of the OFC members listed above.

The next OFC meeting is scheduled for: September 21, 2008 following the 10:30 AM Worship Service.

Thank you,
Outreach Fair Committee

A NOTE FROM PARISH ADMINISTRATION

During the summer months it is typical for the people of St. Paul's to fall behind in their financial giving. As of the end of July, we were behind by nearly \$3,000. If you are behind in your giving, it's not too late to catch up. Thanks.



SEPTEMBER

- 3 Jeffrey Agne
- 8 Cynthia Corneliusson
- 10 Gloria Brocker
- 11 Lois Woy
- 12 Gerry Caughman
- 13 Alice Ruppap
- 14 Patrick Farley
- 15 George Corneliusson
- 17 Carol Farley
- 18 Danielle DeBlois
- 18 Bryan Henderson
- 18 Bernice Noeker
- 20 Kathleen Heckman
- 23 Patrica Scirocco
- 27 Heather Christensen
- 27 Judy Lundin
- 27 Curt Lenard
- 28 Debora Haffenreffer
- 30 Bruce Ashline
- 30 Franklyn Matteson III



OUTREACH "CRAFT" FAIR NEEDS HELPERS

Do you knit? We have cotton yarn and directions for simple 6 or 8 inch wash cloths or dish cloths.

Contact Betty Lamo 529-8469 or
Ellie Bengtson 666-7877

"Yoyo Bunnies" require many fabric circles stitched into yoyos. Fabric circles and quilting thread provided. Mary Susla will show us how. A running stitch (shorter than a basting stitch) around the outside folded edge of the fabric circle, then pulled together outside edge tightly, and viola! A yoyo. The bunnies are colorful and really cute.



My heartfelt thanks, yet once again, to St. Paul's loyal and faithful ushers who have served through or signed up for the year 2008. If you meet up with any of these special dedicated people, be sure to give them a word of thanks for a job well done.

I am always hoping that someone-man, woman, or youngster would be interested in joining this group and would seek me out to sign up. Don't wait to be called - surprise me with a call at 529-3079. If you couldn't sign on for a whole month, I'd be ever grateful if you could volunteer for 2 or 3 weeks. Volunteering as a *substitute* would be most helpful, too.

Those who volunteer for the first time will not be without help! You will be given a detailed copy of usher's duties and will be assigned to serve with a seasoned veteran.

Many Thanks,
Louise Lostocco

PASTOR HUGH'S CONTINUING EDUCATION

In June, as was reported in that month's *Epistle*, I took a course at Hartford Seminary entitled, "Growing Healthy Congregations." It was a week-long intensive course that began early in the morning and ran each day into the early evening. And, as I write this article, I am putting the "finishing touches" on a 20-page paper that will complete the requirements for this course.

I have rarely taken any continuing education while I've been at St. Paul's. I did attend a week-long National Pastors' Convention in 2005, and have gone to a day-long workshop from time to time, but nothing like this. (The ELCA's policy is that pastors should take a minimum of two weeks *each year* for Continuing Education so as to keep fresh and relevant in their ministry.)

This course opened my eyes to so much that I will soon hold a retreat with our Council for an entire day just to unpack what I learned. I believe that St. Paul's needs to refocus and re-invision its mission and ministry here and in the world. Over the past few years we have seen some signs of decline in our Sunday attendance, our giving levels, and in our participation. What I learned from this course is that there are important steps that we can all take together to reverse these trends. That is what I will be going over with the council and, I hope soon, with all of you.

When I began ministry nearly 20 years ago, much of what I was taught then in terms of how to lead a congregation, how to grow a youth ministry, teach confirmation, and be the church no longer applies. The world, over the past 20 years, has changed. The rules that seemed to govern our assumptions about what it takes to run a congregation are all wrong. Back then, people went to Church because it was "the thing to do." Parents brought their children to Sunday School because that's the way it was done. Today the church is only one of dozens of options that a family can participate in on a Sunday. There is no societal presumption any more that going to church is any better than doing something else. Our nation's culture, especially in the North East, has changed. Unless we change, too, we will lose out on the opportunity to stay relevant and grow.

With this realization, I've come to the conclusion that if I am going to be able to be an effective leader of this congregation, to bring about the kind of changes necessary for us to continue to respond to the

world *as it is*, then I need some retraining. By taking the "Growing Healthy Congregations" course in June, I have begun this process.

This Fall, with the support of the Church Council, I will continue this educational process. The course of study that I will take will help me to be a better pastor. It will help me to help *us* to become a more healthy and vibrant congregation. Over the course of the next few years, I will begin to work with a number of you to try to discern what God has in store for us. As I continue my course of studies I will constantly be asking, "What kinds of changes do we need to initiate that will open us up to a deeper faithfulness?" I will be gathering with various groups of our people to ask these questions so that as I learn more; your insights and experience, and your faith and discernment will guide the direction that my studies take.

My studies will all take place at Hartford Seminary. The courses I will be taking are designed with a full-time pastor in mind. In other words, my ministry among you won't diminish, but the way I do ministry will, I hope, change in ways that will benefit us all.

When this course of studies is completed, we will have *all* gone through a process of spiritual discernment. We will have developed and implemented one or more new critical and vibrant ministries. And we will have reflected on these new initiatives in a way that will help us to learn from our mistakes and grow more fully into the church we are called to be. It will be *my job* to write this all up in a project form so that we can share the benefits of our journey with other congregations looking to grow.

What I am asking of you is for your prayers: that God's spirit might open us up to his true call for us and that together we might be able to discern this call and have the faith and courage to stay focused on it. I am asking for your prayers for me, too. It has been over 13 years since I was a graduate student. My life was a lot less complicated then. I am asking you to pray that I might have the insight to learn what I must learn to grow as your pastor, and the fortitude, discipline and patience to not lose sight of the goal: we are here to serve our Lord, not ourselves. We are here to learn how to love with out restraint, how to welcome without fear, how to trust without losing faith.

I promise you'll hear more about this, in more detail, as the months go by.

Pastor Hugh

Youth News

WE JUST LEARNED that the cost of attending next Summer's National Youth Gathering in New Orleans will likely be much higher than we ever anticipated in the past. For this reason, we will have to raise more funds than ever before. **REMINDER:** There is an ongoing can/bottle drive. Please bring clean returnables to the box downstairs by the kitchen. Please be as supportive as possible when our youths ask for help.

HAMMONASSET is coming September 5 through 7! Please help with the Food Drive so we can help feed those who don't have enough to eat!

Hammonasset 2008

September 5-7, 2008

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 leaving it for the weekend. We collected 1,999 pounds of food last year. 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 & 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"

ST. PAUL'S MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR September 2008

ACOLYTES:

Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094

- Sept 7 - Josh Marzano
14 - Gretchen Schultz
21 - Katie Grottke
28 - Jay Viola

ALTAR GUILD:

Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094

- Sept 7 - Patty Bengtson
14 - Ann French & Winnie Sawrun
21 - Jennie Dotts & Betty Lamo
28 - Ann Baledes & Elaine Strecker

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

Kathy Coyle, Coordinator, 529-5983

- Sept 7 - Art Bruce - 8:00
Mike Coyle - 10:30
14 - Jerry Vaillancourt - 8:00
Mary Procyk - 10:30
21 - Kathy Daly - 8:00
- Bill Fischer - 10:30
28 - Emily Lourigan - 8:00
Patty Bengtson - 10:30

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Sue Agne, Coordinator, 563-0776

- Sept 7 - Curt Leonard
14 - Jim Newmark
21 - Sue Agne
28 - Walter Rupp

TAPING MINISTRY:

Crystal Brozynski, Coordinator, 828-5306

- Sept - Deb Howe

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:

Kathy Coyle, Coordinator, 529-5983

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:

Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 529-7588

- Sept 7 - Grace & Robert Durkin
14 - Ellie & Russ Bengtson
21 - Debbie & George Howe
28 - Linda, Kyla & Kaitlin Anderson

FINANCE:

Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 257-4793

- Sept 7 - Betty Lamo
14 - Cindy Seip
21 - Bob Bowman
28 - George Howe

LECTORS:

Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 529-1939

- Sept 7 - Dave Bayek
14 - Joan Kratzer
21 - Bill Fischer
28 - George Howe

NURSERY:

Ann French, Coordinator, 529-3245

- Sept 7 - ***Volunteer Needed***
14 - ***Volunteer Needed***
21 - Margaret & Erica DeBlois
28 - ***Volunteer Needed***

USHERS:

Brian Beckwith, Coordinator, 8AM, 563-4066

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

- Sept - Suzanne McDonald - 8:00AM
Carol Farley and
Erica DeBlois - 10:30AM

September 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Labor Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	2 7:30PM OA	3 7 PM AA 7:30PM Choir	4 <i>Sunday School</i> <i>meeting 7PM</i>	5 10 AM AA <i>Hammonasset</i> <i>Youth Camp</i>	6 <i>Hammonasset</i> <i>Youth Camp</i> AA 7:30 PM
7 <i>Holy Comm. 8:00 AM</i> <i>Holy Comm. 10:30 AM</i> <i>Hammonasset</i> <i>Youth Camp</i>	8 <i>Art Bruce Boy</i> <i>Scouts upstairs</i> 6:30 PM	9 <i>Art Bruce Boy</i> <i>Scouts upstairs</i> 6:30 PM 7:30PM OA	10 7 PM AA 7:30PM Choir	11 10 AM Thur. Grp. <i>Art Bruce Boy</i> <i>Scouts upstairs</i> 7PM	12 10 AM AA	13 AA 7:30 PM
14 <i>Holy Comm. 8:00 AM</i> <i>Holy Comm. 10:30 AM</i> <i>Sunday School Begins</i>	15 <i>Epistle Deadline</i>	16 7:30 PM <i>Worship</i> & <i>Music</i> 7:30PM OA	17 6:15PM <i>Confirmation</i> <i>Class Orientation</i> 7 PM AA 7:30PM Choir	18 7:30 AM Men's <i>Breakfast</i> 10 AM Thur. Grp.	19 10 AM AA <i>Pictorial Day</i> 3-9:30 PM	20 <i>Pictorial Day</i> 10AM-5PM AA 7:30 PM
21 <i>Holy Comm. 8:00 AM</i> <i>Holy Comm. 10:30 AM</i> <i>Outreach Fair Meeting after the</i> <i>10:30 AM service.</i> <i>Youth Meeting 12PM</i>	22	23 6:30PM <i>Parish</i> <i>Admin.</i> 7:30PM <i>Council</i> 7:30PM OA	24 6:15PM <i>Confirmation</i> 7 PM AA 7:30PM Choir	25 10 AM Thur. Grp.	26 10 AM AA	27 AA 7:30 PM
28 <i>Holy Comm. 8:00 AM</i> <i>Holy Comm. 10:30 AM</i>	29	30 7:30PM OA				

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

Starting Sept. 7th:
Worship at 8:00 and 10:30AM
Sept. 14th: SCS resumes 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.....Linda Anderson
TreasurerTom Grottke
Financial Sect'y.....Mary Procyk
Minister of MusicMelissa Cheyney
Superintendent of Sunday Church School.....Alice Rupparr

REMINDERS:

- Sept. 7 **Fall Worship Schedule Begins: 8 & 10:30AM**
- Sept. 14 **Sunday Church School Begins!**
- NOV. 15 **OUTREACH FAIR!**