

# SAINT PAUL'S Epistle

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## WORD OF GOD. SOURCE OF LIFE.

Recently I had a long conversation with a dear friend who happens to be either an agnostic or, more likely, an atheist.

One of the things that struck me during our conversation was the objection that my friend had to people of faith who always turn to a book that is thousands of years old in order to answer life's ultimate questions. While I won't go into the details of our conversations, since it lasted at least an hour and left my brain sore from over-use, the basic difference between us was over whether ultimate truth exists or not, and whether, if it exists, it can be found in the Bible.

This is not just an academic question, by the way. It is, from my perspective, *the* question that people of faith must ask. If the Bible is merely a *literary* product of an ancient people and no more a source of divine revelation than is, say, a play by William Shakespeare, then this would have significant consequences for us people of faith. For one thing, when, at the end of a reading, we say, "The Word of the Lord," followed by, "Thanks be to God," that statement and response would be rendered rather empty.

The thing about faith, that makes it faith and not a kind of science, is that we live not by sight or proof, but in a kind of hope and trust. We can never *prove* that the "Word of the Lord," is what we claim it to be—certainly not to the satisfaction of an atheist. But the evidence of its truthfulness, of its divinity, *can* be found. It is found in the lives that that Word changes: in the forgiveness that is received, the new life that is lived, the support through life's challenges that is experienced. In other words, the evidence for the ultimate truthfulness of God's Word, as it comes to us through the Bible, cannot be discerned through intellectual exertion or through a double-blind scientific experiment. For God's *living* Word wants to dwell not only in our minds, but in our *hearts*. The psalmist wrote in Psalm 51:10:

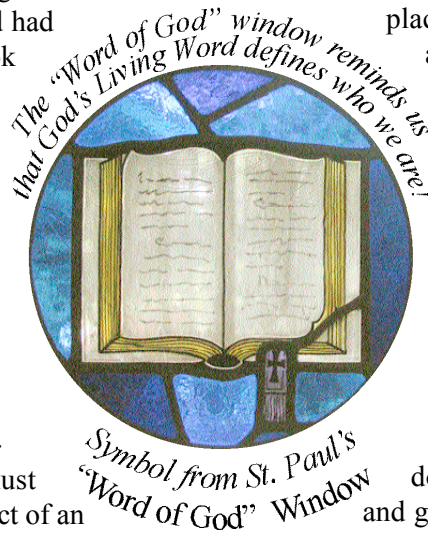
*Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.*

At the heart of this psalm is the conviction that true righteousness—that is living in and out of a right relationship with God—comes through the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, within our hearts—the heart being understood as the central core of our being; that place where our deepest motivations, beliefs, and desires originate. The heart, as it is understood as a biblical metaphor, is where our deepest unspoken secrets are stored. And it is in our heart that God's Word takes root, promises us forgiveness and new life, and breathes new strength into our faith.

So what is this Word? It is the promise of God that through Jesus—through his death and resurrection—we have been made new. We have a new life, a new identity, and a new freedom. God's Word comes to us as promise and grace, *and* as direction and challenge. It is both Gospel (good news) and Law (demand). It both shows us where we are to journey, and gives us the resources for that journey. God's Word is found in the stories, the laws, the poems and wisdom sayings, the prophetic oracles, letters, and the Good News of Jesus that have been collected and published in the Bible. But God's Word is always a *living* word and that is why the real power and promise of that word is only evident in the lives of people of faith.

Will I convince my friend of this truth? Probably not. But while it may be unlikely, if not impossible, for me, God's Word, being a *living* word, always holds open possibilities that my finite mind can never fully grasp.

*Pastor Haffner*



**Consecration Sunday  
& Celebration Luncheon  
with**

**Bishop Margaret G. Payne  
Sunday, November 4**

**Worship at 8 and 10:30 AM  
Luncheon at noon**



# Harvest Fair NEWS

Though we were off to a rainy start, our first Fall Harvest Fair was a great success! The clouds gave way to sunshine in the afternoon and the Prill's

beautiful mums created a lovely backdrop to a festive event. The colors of fall, coincidentally were for the benefit of our equally colorful stained glass windows!

I want to thank everyone who helped make this a success! We were a small but mighty army! Your generosity in the form of baked goods, arts and crafts, harvest vegetables, hard work, and organizational skills all contributed to this wonderful event. And did you taste that olive oil from Jerusalem???

Specifically, I'd like to thank Deb Viola, Carol Farley, Bill Fischer Jr., Winnie Sawrun, and Ann French who were faithfully at every fair meeting and kept me sane through the whole thing. Thanks to Bob and Jackie Prill for the gorgeous mums that we all now have in our yards at home. They were wildly successful. Thanks, also to those who came and worked all day and those behind the scenes the whole week before. You have been a true blessing.

We raised nearly \$3000, though I don't have a final count yet! Very impressive for a first-time event. How much of a window does that restore? Hmmm..... Looks like we may have to have another fair next year!

Peace,

*Betsy Remes*

## ODD SUNDAYS WITH PASTOR HUGH?

Well, that is not to say that they will be "strange" in any way, but on the "odd" Sundays of the month—that is the first, third and, in some cases, the fifth—Pastor Hugh will be meeting with any youths in grades 7 through 12 for one hour from 9:00 to 10:00. We will have the opportunity to explore together what it means to be young Christians. Who is God? What does God want for my life and *from* me? How do I deal with peer pressure? How do I use my talents in a way that makes a difference in the world around me? And so on. The sessions will be fun *and* relevant.

Tell your friends and come on down!

For more information, contact Pastor Hugh.

## WHY DOES THE NEW LITURGY TAKE SO MUCH WORK?

It is clear that every time we learn a new liturgy for our Sunday worship, we all experience some "growing pain." And with the introduction of Setting Two from the ELW this has been no exception. In the past 9 years, St. Paul's has learned three new liturgical settings, "Now the Feast and Celebration," "Bread of Life, Setting 5" from *With One Voice*, and the ELW's "Setting 10," the one based on hymn tunes.

Each time we introduced one of these settings, there was some momentary discomfort as the unfamiliar tunes became familiar. But I think most of us would agree, it has been worth it.

Here's a little "liturgy" lesson. The word liturgy comes from a Greek word with an interesting history. In Classical Greek, *leitourgia*, or for those who read Greek λειτουργια, meant "public work" or "the work of the people." According to Wikipedia, "In the Greek city-states, it had a different sense: some public good which a wealthy citizen arranged at his own expense, either voluntarily or by law." Thus a *leitourgia* or liturgy was a way of fulfilling one's public duty.

When Greek speaking Jews and Christians borrowed the term, they applied it to the work of the people done in worship. Again, effort is expended for a greater good. And this brings us to our present situation. Learning a new liturgy will take effort. It is often hard work. Perhaps it's not part of our civic duty, but it is part of our call to discipleship. And while we are making every effort to make this learning process as painless as possible, growth can be challenging.

We promise that in a few weeks from now, it will, once again, have proven to be worth it. Setting Two will become as much a part of who we are and what we do together as have the previous liturgies. We just have to give it a little time.

## QUICK NOTES

**Window Campaign Clarification:** In the posters announcing our Window Campaign it was stated that we had approximately \$29,240 pledged to date. What this *should have said* was that we had \$29,240 in *designated* funds already. Some of this was pledged, while most of it was from funds designated for Capital Improvements. We apologize if this appeared misleading.

**Epistle Articles:** All those who wish to submit articles for the Epistle are asked to do so *electronically*. You can email your submissions to Janet Vasel at [secretary@stpaulswethersfield.org](mailto:secretary@stpaulswethersfield.org). Thanks!



This is an invitation to participate in God's global mission through the ELCA Missionary Support Program.

Jesus commands his disciples in Matthew 28:19:

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

We would like to actively support this program every year. We can make a difference in spreading the good news, in this country and around the world.

Please do what you can to help this very important program.

- |                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Patty Bengston   | 21 Kim Leonard        |
| 1 LeeAnne Creevy   | 22 Ann Baledes        |
| 1 Monica Hupfer    | 23 Richard Bonds      |
| 2 Michael Coyle    | 23 Sara Preuss        |
| 5 Lynne Matteson   | 23 Anthony Todaro Jr. |
| 7 Kathy Coyle      | 26 Holger Lundin      |
| 7 Susanne Farley   | 27 Crystal Brozynski  |
| 11 Danuta Turek    | 30 George Kanupka     |
| 17 Penrose Wolf    | 31 Sally Edison       |
| 20 Jody Di Natalie | 31 Helen Hube         |



**CONSECRATION SUNDAY:  
NOVEMBER 4TH 2007**

The next few weeks will be exciting times for our congregation! This year's annual appeal will be focused on Consecration Sunday which is scheduled for Sunday November 4th.

In preparation for this event, we will be taking time in our October services to talk about our blessings, both personal and those of our congregation, and the ministry we share together.

On Consecration Sunday we will be joined by Bishop Payne who will be our guest speaker and assist us in the collection of the annual Estimate of Giving cards. After the service a special Celebration Luncheon for the congregation will be held in the Wethersfield High School Cafeteria.

Details on the Celebration Luncheon will be sent out soon. This will be a time for fellowship and celebration. Please plan to join us.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Bierbaum @ 860-977-6555 or St Paul's Office 860-529-5397.



The outreach committee will be having a food drive from November 1st through November 18th to get our food pantry & other pantries in the area ready prior to Thanksgiving.

Please consider donating any canned, dry goods, and toiletries.

This food drive was suggested by Ellie Bengston in thanks to God for her upcoming 75th Birthday.

**ST. PAUL'S MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR  
OCTOBER 2007**

**ACOLYTES:**

*Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094*

- Oct 7 - Amanda Piscitello
- 14 - Gretchen Schultz
- 21 - Kaitlin Anderson
- 28 - Josh Marzano

**ALTAR GUILD:**

*Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094*

- Oct 7 - Judy Lundin, Mary Procyk
- 14 - Ann Balades, Winnie Sawrun
- 21 - Linda Anderson
- 28 - Carol Farley, Debbie Howe

**ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

*Kathy Coyle, Coordinator, 529-5983*

- Oct 7 - Mark Bierbaum - 8:00  
-10:30
- 14 - Emily Lourigan - 8:00  
Kathy Daly - 10:30
- 21 - Mike Coyle - 8:00  
Jim Newmark - 10:30
- 28 - Art Bruce - 8:00  
Mary Procyk - 10:30

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:**

*Sue Agne, Coordinator, 563-0776*

- Oct 7 - Dick Agne
- 14 - Curt Leonard
- 21 - Sue Agne
- 28 - Penrose Wolf

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:**

*Kathy Coyle, Coordinator, 529-5983*

- October - Kathy Coyle & Carol Farley

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:**

*Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 529-7588*

- Oct 7 - Pam & Jody DiNatalie
- 14 - Debbie & Amanda Viola
- 21 - Kathy & Mike Coyle
- 28 - Sallyann & Penrose Wolf

**FINANCE:**

*Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 257-4793*

- Oct 7 - Russ Correll
- 14 - George Howe
- 21 - Art Bruce
- 28 - Mike Coyle

**LECTORS:**

*Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 529-1939*

- Oct 7 - Joan Kratzer
- 14 - Lillian Doerschler
- 21 - Jim Newmark
- 28 - Mary Procyk

**NURSERY:**

*Ann French, Coordinator, 529-3245*

- Oct 7 - Crystal Brozynski & Roxy DeBlois
- 14 - Heather & Jared Christensen
- 21 - Margaret & Erica DeBlois
- 28 - Margaret & Erica DeBlois

**USHERS:**

*Louise Lostocco, Coordinator, 529-3079*


- First Service
- Oct - McDonald
- Second Service
- Oct - Walter Rupp, Dick Agne

**TAPING MINISTRY:**

*Crystal Brozynski, Coordinator, 828-5306*

- Oct - Walter Rupp

# October 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 7 PM Outreach/Comm 7:30 OA	<b>3</b> 10:30 AM Bible Study: Psalms 7 PM AA 7:30 PM Choir	<b>4</b> 10 AM Thursday Group	<b>5</b> 10 AM AA	<b>6</b> AA 7:30 PM	
<b>7</b> 8 & 10:30 AM Holy Comm. 9 AM SCS, Odd Sundays with Pastor Hugh and the Youth. 9:45 AM Choir	<b>8</b> Columbus Day Stewardship Exec. Comm. 7-8:30 PM	<b>9</b> 7:30 Worship & Music 7:30 OA	<b>10</b> 10:30 AM Bible Study: Psalms 7 PM AA 7:30 PM Choir	<b>11</b> 10 AM Thursday Group	<b>12</b> 10 AM AA	<b>13</b> AA 7:30 PM
<b>14</b> 8:30 AM O Day Fall of Grace on WJMJ 88.9FM 8 & 10:30 AM Holy Comm. 9 AM SCS 9:15 AM Adlt. Disc. 9:45 AM Choir	<b>15</b> Epistle deadline	<b>16</b> 6:30 Parish Admin. 7:30 Council 7:30 PM OA	<b>17</b> 10:30 AM Bible Study: Psalms 7 PM AA 7:30 PM Choir	<b>18</b> 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 10 AM Thursday Group	<b>19</b> 10 AM AA	<b>20</b> AA 7:30 PM
<b>21</b> 8 & 10:30 AM Holy Comm. 9 AM SCS, Odd Sundays with Pastor Hugh and the Youth. 9:45 AM Choir	<b>22</b> Bishop's Convocation Pastor Away	<b>23</b> 7:30 PM OA	<b>24</b> No Bible Study 7 PM AA 7:30 PM Choir	<b>25</b> 10 AM Thur. Grp.	<b>26</b> 10 AM AA	<b>27</b> AA 7:30 PM
<b>28</b> Reformation Sunday 8 & 10:30 AM Holy Comm. 9 AM SCS 9:15 AM Adlt. Disc. 9:45 AM Choir	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7:30 PM OA 6:30 PM Consec. Sun. Leadership Dinner	<b>31</b> Halloween 10:30 AM Bible Study: Psalms 7 PM AA 7:30 PM Choir	Pastor Hugh will be on WJMJ's (FM 88.9) <b>O Day Full of Grace</b> , Sunday, October 14 at 8:30 AM . . . . <b>CONSECRATION SUNDAY</b> with Bishop Margaret G. Payne Sunday, November 4th		

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

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:00 and 10:30AM

### Sunday Church School

9:00AM

### OFFICERS AND STAFF

Rev. Hugh R. B. Haffenreffer, Pastor.....Office: (860) 529-5397  
Cell Phone: (860) 966-7360  
[pastorh@stpaulswethersfield.org](mailto:pastorh@stpaulswethersfield.org)  
Office Manager.....Janet Vasel: [secretary@stpaulswethersfield.org](mailto:secretary@stpaulswethersfield.org)  
Council President.....Brian Beckwith  
Treasurer.....Russell Correll  
Financial Sect'y.....Mary Procyk  
Minister of Music.....Melissa Cheyney  
Superintendent of Sunday Church School.....Alice Rupp

### REMINDERS:

**Please help support our Stained Glass Window Campaign!**

**Look for items concerning our Consecration Sunday w/ Bishop Payne!**

**October 2007**