

SAINT PAUL'S Epistle

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Volume 66, Number 7

COME HOLY SPIRIT!

I'll never forget the time, during my 20s, when I spent a summer hiking in the Wind River Range in Wyoming. Our party was camped out on a large glacier at the bottom of Gannett Peak. It had been cold and drizzling for some time and all of us were doing our best to stay warm in our tents and, by now rather soggy, sleeping bags. Then came the wind. It started as a slight breeze which grew stronger and stronger until we, in our tents, were holding on to the tent poles and anything else we could grab, hoping that our tents wouldn't shred or the poles snap. The sudden squall lasted only a few short but terrifying minutes and then it was over. There were some broken poles, but fortunately nothing that couldn't be repaired. What was changed was our appreciation for how powerful, and potentially damaging the wind can be, and how vulnerable one can become in the face of its power.

I tell this story in order to introduce another source of overwhelming power—the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word which is translated as “spirit” is *ruach*. In the New Testament it is *pneuma*. Interesting to note is that both *ruach* and *pneuma* can also be translated either as “breath” or as “wind.”

In the first creation story, Genesis 1:1-2 we read, “In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a *wind from God* swept over the face of the waters.” (NRSV) Some say it was a *mighty wind*. Other translators say that the “Spirit of God was moving over the water.” (CEV) Why this word study? Because if you look around St. Paul's sanctuary and nave, you'll see reminders of the Spirit all around you. They are in the new large Pentecost banners that adorn the chancel wall on either side of the cross, and in the “Holy Spirit” window pictured here and found in the nave, in one of the Gospel side windows, nearest the narthex.

For Christians, the symbol of the Holy Spirit is the descending dove. Mark records, at Jesus' baptism, that, “just as [Jesus] was coming up out of the water, he saw

the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.” (Mark 1:10) This same Spirit, that was poured out upon Jesus at his baptism was poured out upon the disciples on Pentecost when “suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a *violent wind*, and it filled the entire house where [Jesus' disciples] were sitting.” (Acts 2:2) In John's Gospel the disciples received the Spirit when Jesus “*breathed on them* and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’” (20:22) (Are you seeing a connection between wind, breath and spirit?)

What is Good News for us, as we seek to navigate the complexities and bear the weight of our callings is that this same breathing, windy, and mighty spirit is poured into our lives at *our* baptism. There we hear this plea, “Pour your Holy Spirit upon [this child of yours]: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.” (*LBW, Holy Baptism*) What promised resources for hope and life: wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, fear of the Lord, and joy in God's presence. It is no wonder that we pray, “Come, Holy Spirit. Come!”

Pastor Hugh Haffenreffer



DON'T FORGET: YOUR GIFTS ARE IMPORTANT – EVEN WHEN YOU'RE ON VACATION

During the summer months, while on vacation, don't forget to keep current on your weekly contributions to St. Paul's. Your gifts lift us up and help us be a great congregation for our members, for our community and for those we have yet to reach.

Mail your gifts to our church office at:

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
371 Wolcott Hill Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109

Be sure to include your weekly offering envelope or your envelope number with your gift. Thank you.

Stewardship Team

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.

I discovered the need for this when I was looking for a caterer for Les's art show and I wondered if there was someone in the congregation that did this. Then I was looking for a snowplow person and then I wondered who would do some yard work for us.

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.

I am so very much looking forward to hearing from all of you. I know you are all uniquely gifted in one way or another. Just as we are all members of Christ's body so are we all members of this church. I beg of you don't be shy. Don't hide your light under a bushel—let God know you are grateful for all he has done for you by being willing to share with those of us who have different gifts.

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

DID YOU KNOW . . . ?

THE THURSDAY MORNING GROUP

The Thursday Morning Group was started when St. Paul's was in its infancy. The women of the church came together to sew drapes, clean the building, set up a kitchen for the Altar Guild and to help the men to paint or do whatever else was needed to get St Paul's started in its new home. This was "Waaay back" in the old Griswold home before our new church was built. The women got together each Thursday for work and gradually did much volunteer sewing and started a women's prayer group and Bible study. This went on successfully for many years until the Children's Hospital in Newington no longer needed the special sewing skills and the WELCA group disbanded.

The group started again in 1999 as a way to get the women of St. Paul's together again for socializing, sewing, crafts, and Bible study. Pastor Haffenreffer now leads a Bible study on Wednesdays so the group mainly does crafts and sewing for the Outreach Fair every other year and tries to do a general cleanup of the church building at least once each year. Two of the group do Yeoman's work on the outside planting flowers, weeding, and general upkeep.

We have a very active bunch meeting on each Thursday from 10AM to 2PM. Bring your lunch. Coffee and tea are available. Men are welcome to enjoy the social time. If you are at home, retired, or have the day off come and join the group. You don't have to sew or clean (although its always appreciated) just sit and talk and enjoy the company. All are welcome. You might want to spend time checking out our library while enjoying that cup of tea.

P.S. We could use some gardeners for the church grounds.

Winnie Sawrun



**New Church
Picture Directory
is coming!**

Save one of the following dates:

Tues. August 5th, 3 - 9:30 PM

Fri. September 19th, 3 - 9:30 PM

and Saturday, September 20, from 10AM to 5PM.

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or online by going to St. Paul's website and follow the **Olan Mills** link!

**MY IMPRESSIONS & THOUGHTS
INSPIRED BY THE SPRING ASSEMBLY
OF THE NEW ENGLAND SYNOD, ELCA**

By Les Lourigan

“Oh ye of little faith!” This is what I felt when the Synod Assembly began discussing the 2009 Budget and the need to cut back on our programs and ministries for a projected lack of funding. A church’s budget is not something we should approach like a business; it takes faith, and “faith without works is dead!”

We are justified by Grace, to be sure. I am a saint *and* a sinner both! I am a saint, out of Gods grace and forgiveness - I am a sinner because of my *humanity*. I am a Christian member of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Wethersfield CT, which is a member of the New England Synod, ELCA which is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which in turn is part of the whole world-wide Body of Christ—so we are ALL connected to each other by grace, whether we like it or not.

We contribute to the New England Synod because through it we are able to do many things which we cannot do on our own, and because we are ALL the body of Christ.

I get *stuck* in my humanity. I try to fit the church into my human ways of doing things. And when I do, I forget that in the Gospels Jesus tells us that ALL things are possible with God’s grace.

I am sad with how we brought our humanity to the Synod Assembly and tried to operate the church out of it. The confines of our budget for 2009 is a result of that. We say what we *cannot* do instead of what we *can* do with God’s Grace. We limit ourselves and our service to God by not operating out of the generosity of God’s Grace.

Without faith we do not celebrate—not like we should! We do not “rejoice always”—not with our whole heart! Without faith, we cannot fully accept God’s Grace and all the gifts of the gospel.

And yet . . . at the same time, **we do a great job with what we have**. With God’s Grace, we *are* growing in faith, bit by bit, *in spite* of our humanity. With God’s Grace, “All’s right with the world.” Though it may not always seem so.

Love,
Les

STEWARDSHIP IS . . .

Strengthening your relationship with God.

WHERE AM I?

Have you ever asked yourself that question in your relationship with God? Perhaps more recently than you would like to admit. “Where are you?” is the first question God asked Adam in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:9).

Adam responded, “I heard the sound of thee in the garden, and I was afraid.”

How would you have responded? Some may respond in terms of family affiliation, location or vocation. God was asking not where Adam and Eve were located, but why they were hiding in the garden. God knew the instructions had been disobeyed - “... but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat ” (Genesis 2:17). This encounter lays a foundation for the relationship of God calling back the people he created.

Like Adam and Eve, we too have been abundantly blessed. We too are asked to be caretakers of God’s world. And by God’s grace, all that we need will be provided. We are asked to baptize and teach in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Yet, we can become separated from God. Where are we in our relationship with God? Are we hiding in the garden or standing on the mountaintop praising God’s name?

In his book *In Search of Faithfulness*, Lutheran layman Bill Diehl suggests seven attributes of Christians who are faithfully seeking a relationship with God:

1. **Building a Sense of Identity** -We do this by building our relationship with God and recognizing our calling by God. Each of us is called to a ministry.

2. **Growth** -We are constantly changing and facing new challenges. The Bible serves as a daily guide for the content of our belief, but we must also experience our faith, or put in to practice what we believe. This combination shows us how the teaching of Jesus apply in everyday life.

3. **Prayer and Meditation** -This is how we communicate with God and keep a clear sense of God’s will in our life. Simply take time for prayer.

4. **Life in Community** -We each live in three communities - universal, the congregation, a relational or support community. Each plays a role in our growth and building a sense of identity. How we worship with and serve others provides a witness to our faith.

5. **Giving** - Faithful people are marked by their willingness to give to others. This may include their time, talents and resources.

6. **Sense of Justice** - This involves applying the Christian values we learn to ethical issues we face in daily life. Accepting Christ means accepting certain responsibilities and fulfilling them to achieve desired outcomes.

7. **Simplicity of Life Style** - As people of God, we put God first in our life. Our security is in our faith, not our earthly possessions. We set our priorities based on God’s will, not our own.

Where are you in your relationship with God? Are you hiding in the garden? If your desire is to be closer to God, consider incorporating the faith building practices listed above into your life.

*(From David Obedzinski, Stewardship Chair,
St. Mark Lutheran Church)*

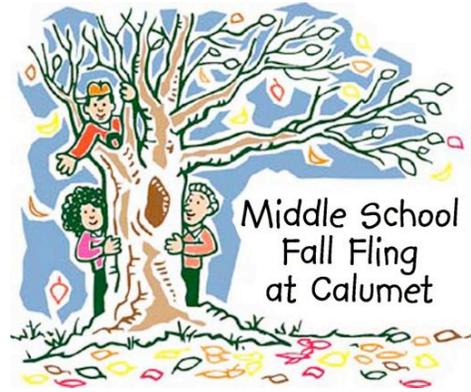


JULY

- 1 Joe Creevy
- 6 Jamie Groman
- 7 Elizabeth Tadaro
- 8 Genny Klatt
- 10 Charles Dotts
- 10 Jerry Edison
- 10 Betty Lamo
- 10 Chris Homick
- 14 Doreen Matteson
- 16 Linda DiCioccio
- 16 Fred Vogt
- 22 Vicki Anderson
- 22 Dot Latham
- 28 Matthew Perry

AUGUST

- 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
- 14 Virginia Brenzinger
- 19 Sue Agne
- 20 Howard Cogswell
- 22 Allan Barr
- 26 Sallyann Wolf
- 30 Scott Correll
- 31 Betsy Remes



FALL FLING!

**FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH
SEPTEMBER 26-28, 2008
"ONE WAY! JESUS!"**

**MUSICAL GUEST: JACOB MADDAUS
DISCUSSION LEADER: STEVE KENNEDY**

Jacob Maddaus served as summer Music and Worship Coordinator in 2007. He has been leading inspirational music at Calumet for several years and is especially known at Calumet for his incredible talent on the drums!

Jacob is looking forward to getting to know the youth from your church this fall.

One Way! Jesus! Is the familiar refrain to the song that Jacob introduced to Calumet last summer. It quickly became a favorite. We will use it to help us explore our theme. It will become your favorite too.

Young teens will have the opportunity to share stories of their faith in small-group discussions and activity sessions with other youth from all over New England. Plus there will be games, campfires, plenty of recreation, an ice cream social, and great new friends!

For more information, or if you are interested in attending, contact Linda Anderson.

CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR GRADUATES!



Kyle McDonald Graduated from Babson College with a degree in Finance.
Kelsey McDonald - Graduated from Wethersfield High School and is entering Quinnipiac University in the Fall.



Seeking a volunteer to put out our trash barrels on either Monday evening or Tuesday evening. Please contact Janet.

Youth News

THANK YOU to all who came out to support the youth car wash. Spacial thanks to Mark Olson and Bill Fischer. **REMINDER:** There is an ongoing can/bottle drive. Please bring clean returnables to the box downstairs by the kitchen.,

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"





CARTRIDGES FOR KIDS

The youth have are planning a NEW FUNDRAISER to support their participation in the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, next Summer.

They will earn cash by recycling old, used cell phones, video game consoles, video games, empty inkjet & laser cartridges, digital cameras, laptops, PDAs/Palm Pilots, iPods and dvd movies.

We are still in the planning stages but wanted to get the word out so that you can start collecting.

Tell your family, friends, and workplace.

Watch for collection bins in the fellowship hall.

Any questions, contact Debbie Viola

The youth have been very busy fundraising to raise money for the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans 2009.

We have **10 YOUTHS FROM ST. PAUL'S** going on the trip. Thank you to all who have so generously supported us. Please watch for information on upcoming fund raisers.

SAVE THE DATE

“Faith and Family Day”
Sunday August 24, 2008



Rock Cats vs. Akron Aeros

Free tickets available from
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Further details to be announced

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

ST. PAUL'S MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR July 2008

ACOLYTES:

Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094

- July 6 - Kaitlin Anderson
- 13 - Amanda Piscitello
- 20 - Gretchen Schultz
- 27 - Katie Grottke

ALTAR GUILD:

Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094

- July 6 - Carol Farley & Debbie Howe
- 13 - Ann Baledes & Elaine Strecker
- 20 - Helen Peterson
- 27 - Ann French & Winnie Sawrun

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

Kathy Coyle, Coordinator, 529-5983

- July 6 - Jerry Vaillancourt - 9:00
- 13 - Mike Coyle - 9:00
- 20 - Mary Procyk - 9:00
- 27 - Kathie Daly - 9:00

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Sue Agne, Coordinator, 563-0776

- July 6 - Patty Bengtson
- 13 - Judy Gerken
- 20 - Carole Hughes
- 27 - Kathy Daly

TAPING MINISTRY:

Crystal Brozynski, Coordinator, 828-5306

Summer Break

EUCHARISTIC MINISTER:

Kathy Coyle, Coordinator, 529-5983

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:

Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 529-7588

- July 6 - Rick & Christine Intravia
- 13 - Sandra & Ken Slowik
- 20 - Ann Baledes & Lois Woy
- 27 - Joanna & Allen Piscitello

FINANCE:

Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 257-4793

- July 6 - Mary Procyk
- 13 - George Howe
- 20 - Art Bruce
- 27 - Mike Coyle

LECTORS:

Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 529-1939

- July 6 - Judy Gerken
- 13 - Carol Bruce
- 20 - Arthur Bruce
- 27 - Winnie Sawrun

NURSERY:

Ann French, Coordinator, 529-3245

Summer Break

USHERS:

Brian Beckwith, Coordinator, 8AM, 563-4066

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

- July - Lillian Doerschler &
Emily Lourigan - 9:00

ST. PAUL'S MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR August 2008

ACOLYTES:

Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094

- Aug 3 - Jay Viola
- 10 - Jamie Piscitello
- 17 - Celia Cheyney
- 24 - Kaitlin Anderson
- 31 - Amanda Piscitello

ALTAR GUILD:

Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094

- Aug 3 - Jennie Dotts & Betty Lamo
- 10 - Ann Baledes & Elaine Strecker
- 17 - Anderson's
- 24 - Carol Farley & Debbie Howe
- 31 - Mary Procyk

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

Kathy Coyle, Coordinator, 529-5983

- Aug 3 - Kathy Coyle - 9:00
- 10 - Emily Lourigan - 9:00
- 17 - Patty Bengtson - 9:00
- 24 - Jim Newmark - 9:00
- 31 - Bill Fischer - 9:00

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Sue Agne, Coordinator, 563-0776

- Aug 3 - Mike Coyle
- 10 - Mary Procyk
- 17 - Lillian Doerschler
- 24 - Dick Agne
- 31 - Helen Peterson

TAPING MINISTRY:

Crystal Brozynski, Coordinator, 828-5306

Summer Break

EUCHARISTIC MINISTER:

Kathy Coyle, Coordinator, 529-5983

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:

Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 529-7588

- Aug 3 - Kathy & Mike Coyle
- 10 - Mary Procyk & Tracy Newmark
- 17 - Lillian Doerschler & Winnie Sawrun
- 24 - Carol Hopkins & Pat Scirocco
- 31 - Carol & Art Bruce

FINANCE:

Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 257-4793

- Aug 3 - Mary Procyk
- 10 - Lillian Doerschler
- 17 - Helen Peterson
- 24 - Lois Woy
- 31 - Harriett Fritsch

LECTORS:

Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 529-1939

- Aug 3 - Kathy Coyle
- 10 - Emily Lourigan
- 17 - Patty Bengtson
- 24 - Jim Newmark
- 31 - Bill Fischer

NURSERY:

Ann French, Coordinator, 529-3245

Summer Break

USHERS:

Brian Beckwith, Coordinator, 8AM, 563-4066

Louise Lostocco, Coordinator, 9:00 AM, 529-3079

August- Bill Fischer & Rick Seip - 9:00

July 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 		1 7:30 OA	2 7 PM AA	3 10 AM Thur. Grp.	4 Independence Day/Office Closed 10 AM AA	5 AA 7:30 PM
6 Holy Comm. 9:00 AM	7	8 7:30 OA	9 7 PM AA	10 10 AM Thur. Grp.	11 10 AM AA	12 AA 7:30 PM
13 Holy Comm. 9:00 AM	14	15 7:30 OA	16 7 PM AA	17 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 10 AM Thur. Grp.	18 10 AM AA	19 AA 7:30 PM
20 Holy Comm. 9:00 AM	21	22 7:30 OA	23 7 PM AA	24 10 AM Thur. Grp.	25 10 AM AA	26 AA 7:30 PM
27 Holy Comm. 9:00 AM	28	29 7:30 OA	30 7 PM AA	31 10 AM Thur. Grp.	Pastor Hugh away on vacation from July 12 to 19. Pastor Richard Burgess to preach on July 13.	

August 2008

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

	<p>Save the Date: "Faith and Family Day" Sunday August 24, 2008 • Rock Cats vs. Akron Aeros Free tickets available from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Further details to be announced Contacts: Art Bruce 257-7327 or Linda Anderson 659-4094</p>						<p>1 10 AM AA</p>	<p>2 AA 7:30 PM</p>
<p>3 Holy Comm. 9:00 AM</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 11:30 AM AA Pictorial Picture Day 3-9:30 PM 7:30 PM OA</p>	<p>6 7 PM AA</p>	<p>7 10 AM Thur. Grp.</p>	<p>8 10 AM AA</p>	<p>9 AA 7:30 PM</p>		
<p>10 Holy Comm. 9:00 AM Pastor Hugh away. Pr. Richard Burgess preaching</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 11:30 AM AA 7:30 PM OA</p>	<p>13 7 PM AA</p>	<p>14 10 AM Thur. Grp.</p>	<p>15 10 AM AA Epistle Deadline</p>	<p>16 AA 7:30 PM</p>		
<p>17 Holy Comm. 9:00 AM</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 11:30 AM AA 7:30 PM OA</p>	<p>20 7 PM AA</p>	<p>21 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 10 AM Thur. Grp.</p>	<p>22 10 AM AA</p>	<p>23 AA 7:30 PM</p>		
<p>24 Holy Comm. 9:00 AM FAITH AND FAMILY DAY: Rock Cats vs. Akron Aeros</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 11:30 AM AA 6:30 Parish Admin 7:30 Council 7:30 PM OA</p>	<p>27 7 PM AA</p>	<p>28 10 AM Thur. Grp.</p>	<p>29 10 AM AA</p>	<p>30 AA 7:30 PM</p>		
<p>31 Holy Comm. 9:00 AM</p>	<p>September's pictorial Directory Days are: Friday, September 19 and Saturday the 20th. Have you signed up yet?</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

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Holy Communion: 9:00AM

(Through September 9)

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 Rupp

REMINDERS:

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

July/August 2008