

# SAINT PAUL'S Epistle

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November 2008

Volume 66, Number 10

## TEN COMMANDMENTS:

### A COMPASS FOR A LIFE WORTH LIVING

This month, our tour of our stained glass windows takes us up into the church balcony, where we find our “Ten Commandments Window.” The Ten Commands are typically symbolized by two stone tablets with the first 3 commandments (here represented by Roman numerals) on one and the following 7 on the other. These are often referred to as the two “tables” of the law—the first having to do with our *direct* relationship with God and the second having to do with our relationship with our neighbor, beginning with our parents.

It should be noted, by the way, that Lutherans and Roman Catholics number the commandments *differently* than others faith traditions. Where our second commandment is about not misusing the God's name, others include before it a prohibition against idolatry. And where we have two commandments (numbers 9 and 10) dealing with “coveting,” others combine these into one. (A further discussion of this can be found on my monthly meditation page on our website.)

There have been disagreements about the commandments, even among Lutherans, as to how one ought to *use* them. This has led to an understanding of up to three uses, or purposes, of the law: 1) to restrain public or civil evil; 2) to show us our sins so that we might turn in repentance to Christ; and 3) as a guide for how, once we have been redeemed by Christ, to live our lives as Christians.

There is little time here to discuss in what way God's law can and ought to shape our civil society, which is one area of disagreement. In a society that values the separation of religious and civil life, it would be difficult, if not impossible (and probably misguided) to try to legislate a binding and comprehensive religious moral code. Theocracies have *always* been a source of civic terror as they are the antithesis of democracy and freedom. But this is not to say that the commandments are irrelevant to us.

When I read the command to have no other god

before God, if I am open and honest with myself, I realize how far I have fallen. By “god”, with a small “g”, we don't mean some Canaanite fertility god that may have been the concern of ancient Israelites, but *anything* that we might turn to in times of trouble as a replacement for our full “fear, love and trust” in God (big “G”). One example of my personal idolatry is evident in the fact that I tend to find myself trusting more in the promise of *money* to provide security for me in times of trouble than I do in the promise of God. And if I go beyond the *surface* of these commandments and unpack them the way Jesus did, they each are literally impossible to follow. When the commandment forbidding murder is stretched so far as to prohibit negative *thoughts* toward my neighbor (see Matthew 5:22), there is no escape. It is no wonder that this “second” use of the law “drives us to the foot of the cross” where we find, in Jesus' death and resurrection, hope and forgiveness.

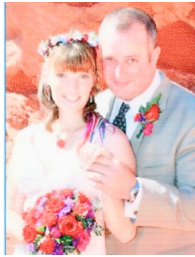
But now what? Is that all that the commandments are good for? If I had to chose sides, I would stand with those who find that the 10 Commanments serve as a practical guide through life. This in no way turns them into the “10 *Suggestions*.” On the contrary, it opens them up to us in a way that brings life and oppportunity and not mere condemnation. Like a compass, they show us where God would have us go. And trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit, we are able set off on our journey.

Take a moment, if you are able, and look how Luther, in his *Small Catechism*, unpacks each commandment. (If you don't have a copy of this, ask and I'll be happy to give you one.) When, for example, it says in the fifth commandment, “You shall not murder,” something most of us will likely avoid in this life, Luther opens this up by explaining, “We are to fear and love God, so that we neither endanger nor harm the lives of our neighbors,” — so far so good— “but instead *help and support them in all of life's needs*.” Now *that* is a vision I can live my whole life trying to fulfill.

Pastor Hugh Haffenreffer



*Recent Weddings*



**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

**Garrett Henry Hughes  
and Jennifer Olson,**

married September 12th in The Valley of Fire, Nevada. Garrett's parents are Carole and Garrett Hughes. Jennifer is the daughter of Ralph Olson of E. Haddam and Linda Olson of Rocky Hill.

**Timothy Bruce and Sue Olson**

Married September 14th at Camp Calumet. Tim is a life-long member and son of Carol and Art Bruce.

**Amy Lewis and Nicholas Federici,**

married October 4th, at St. Paul's. Amy's parents are Gayle and Roy Lewis. Nicholas is the son of Gino and Dorena Federici.



Service  
of  
Communion

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

We have a group of dedicated people who take turns serving Communion about 4 times a year at the 10:30 service each Sunday. It would be wonderful to be able to add your name to this list. If you are interested in serving, please give me a call or email me at. I will gladly help you become comfortable in this role at church. I will be compiling the 2009 list of assistants shortly. I sincerely hope you will consider this opportunity.

Should any of the current Communion Assistants like to take a rest from this service or if you have Sundays during the months during the year that work better for you, please email that information too!

Thanks very much!  
Sue Agne, 563-0776  
susana23@sbcglobal.net



**HELP NEEDED**

The Altar Guild is in need of a few additional members. Duties include setting up the altar on Saturday for the Sunday services, and cleaning the altar on Sunday. We try to work in teams of two. Currently, each team is scheduled about every 7 weeks. If you are interested in serving on this team or would like more information, please contact;

Linda Anderson at 659-4094.



We mourn the loss of

**Rosemary Ann Miclette**

*April 23, 1950 to October 4, 2008*

Rose was a dear friend of Jim and Tracy Newmark. Our sympathy goes out to them and Rose's son Bob.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to

**Gerry and Bill Caughman**

upon the loss of Gerry's mother, Helen Garro (98), who died on Tuesday, October 21.



**November Birthday's**

- 1 Hazel Leibenguth
- 4 Christopher Hans
- 6 George Olson
- 9 Carol Ann Hopkins
- 13 Mario DeBlois
- 14 Melissa Malinguaggio
- 21 Gary King
- 22 Heidi Sawrun
- 26 Suzanne McDonald
- 26 Pastor Hugh
- 29 James Anderson Jr.
- 30 Ellie Bengtson

**THIS JUST IN:**

**Jack Brendan Leahy,** son of Katie and Brendan, arrived on Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 8:03AM, at 7 lbs., 11 oz. **Welcome Jack!** And congratulations to his parents and, of course, Sue and Dick Agne, proud and doting grandparents!



# HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Saturday November 15th  
9 AM - 3 PM

Celebrate the Holiday Season!  
Just in time for your Thanksgiving Day preparations.

Visit the:

Bakery:

*For homemade baked pies just like your Grandmother's,  
plus many other homemade baked goodies.....*

Holiday Store:

*Where you can purchase gifts/decorations for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.*

Country Store:

*For homemade jams, relishes, cider, lotions and other autumn/seasonal items.*

Our Kitchen:

*Will be serving up delicious homemade soups again this year as well as other snacks and beverages to enjoy while you visit.*

Handmade Crafts:

*Believe it or not! All items sold in this department are handmade by talented artisans in our workshop.*

Children's Booth:

*Where the children can create wonderful sand art projects.*

You will also find: Jewelry (handmade and selected originals), Books, Phonographs, Tapes, CDs, DVDs, Grandma's Attic (selected items) and Olive Oil direct from the Mount of Olives.

All proceeds will benefit the following:  
**Wethersfield Social Services, Camp Horizon,  
New England Seafarers' Mission, Mercy Corps (Darfur)**

Volunteers are needed for set up and clean up, please consider volunteering for a couple of hours or more.

Sign up sheet is located in the fellowship area.

Questions/Concerns Contact:

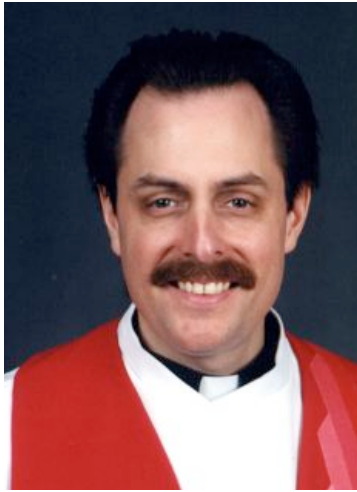
Bill Fisher, 721-9031, Debbie Viola, 529-5051, or Carol Farley, 828-5306

A suggested donation of a nonperishable food item or gently loved stuffed animal would be appreciated!



**PASTOR CELEBRATES 10 YEARS AT ST. PAUL'S  
AND 20 YEARS OF MINISTRY  
ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD**

Please join us on Nov. 23rd after the 10:30 Service to celebrate Pastor Hugh's **10 years with St. Paul's**. WOW! Ten years!! Seems like only a short time ago we were welcoming him and Debbie to our church as Pastor began his ministry with us.



*Pastor Hugh as he appeared 10 years ago. Hmmmm. I'm not sure his mustach is nearly as dark today.*

In that 10 years with us Pastor has warmed our hearts with Marvin's development as our beloved parish personality. Pastor conveys much theology to all of us with simplicity and laughter during his Children's messages with Marvin and Rosie (who is developed by Kaitlin Anderson under Pastor Hugh's mentorship). With a great deal of help from our church community, Pastor has directed 10 years of fantastic Nativity Pageants that draw large, warm, appreciate and attentive congregations to enjoy. Pastor's ministry with us at St. Paul's gifts us with his leadership in worship (his excellent tenor voice notwithstanding), Bible study, Confirmation and Sunday School, and Church Council. Pastor has been with us in happy and sad times for us as a community: We have had many sad times in our church body over his 10 years with us, but we have also enjoyed fun and fellowship.

Pastor is presently involved in a Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) program at Hartford Seminary which is intended to assist him with his ministry at St. Paul's. The program is designed to bring renewal to our congregation as he learns new ministry techniques and developes a ministry project that is tailored uniquely to the needs of St. Paul's.

Come join us on Nov. 23rd in celebrating Pastor Hugh's ministry with us! Find out more about his Doctor of Ministry program and give him thanks for his 10 years of service to us at St. Paul's.



*Marvin as he appears today. Hmmmmm. He doesn't seem to have changed at all!*

*Kathy Coyle*

## SURVEY REPORT

*The following is the remainder of the Survey Report that was first printed in October's Epistle. In bold are the questions that were asked to you who responded. Below these are brief summaries of your responses. This report was submitted by Winnie Sawrun.*

### **1. Do you have any suggestions on how to improve the quality of our worship services?**

There were several comments, suggestions, & alternative service times. The frequency of communion be limited or alternated between services. Announcements should be reduced it is not necessary to repeat what is already printed in the bulletin. It was noted that visitors often find the service materials confusing. The service should be more family friendly & reduce interruptions by children coming in and out during the service.

### **2. Do you have any suggestions on how to get the word out about St. Paul's Lutheran Church?**

Respondents agreed there is a need to advertise & publicize planned events. It was noted that "keeping the lights on" while events are occurring will attract interest. Specific suggestions for special events included hosting an open house, grief counseling, other guest speakers, Thanksgiving Ecumenical service or a healing service could be offered & making more use of the PE building. We need to spread the Word & share our St. Paul's success stories. Contact with visitors should be emphasized & to also create an active recruiting team.

### **3. How frequently do you attend worship?**

Most answering said they attend weekly, two or three times a month.

### **4. Adult Education and Spiritual Growth: Do you attend Bible Study? If not what would encourage you to attend?**

Most do not attend Bible Study & commented it was a time commitment problem. Some suggestions were, alternative times, other types of studies, using current events, & providing an interactive discussion rather than a lecture format. Those that have attended commented on the depth of Pastor Hugh's knowledge and noted it was thought provoking and inspiring.

### **5. Do you have pre-school or school age children?**

Most congregants do not have pre-school or school age children. (9 out of 49)

### **6. Would you like to be contacted to personally discuss your concerns or suggestions?**

Eight people said they would like to be contacted for further discussion. A team member and/or Pastor Hugh will contact those people. It was specifically suggested we reach out to the younger people for their opinions and suggestions.

We had many, comments. You really let us know how you were feeling about our church. It would take several pages to go through all the ideas presented. In the next several months the church committees & the council members will go over the surveys again to hopefully solve some problems.

Some items to work on or that in progress are:

- Fine tune the PA system
- Sunday worship more visitors friendly
- Recruit council members
- Shorter service
- Cut out announcements
- Advertise special events in publications
- Design a survey for Bible Study
- Establish a committee to contact vanishing parishioners to find out why?

There is more to do to find out where we want to go as active Christians and the part we need to have St. Paul's Church to take in that journey. Please feel free to speak with anyone on the survey committee or Pastor Hugh.

#### **Members of survey team:**

Russell Correll; chair (*deceased*)

Melissa Cheyney

Julie Perry

Lillian Doerschler

Winifred Sawrun

Bill Fischer

# ***ST. PAUL'S MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR November 2008***

## **ACOLYTES:**

*Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094*

- Nov 2 - Josh Marzano
- 9 - Gretchen Schultz
- 16 - Katie Grottke
- 23 - Jay Viola
- 30 - Amanda Piscitello

## **ALTAR GUILD:**

*Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094*

- Nov 2 - Ann French & Winnie Sawrun
- 9 - Jennie Dotts & Betty Lamo
- 16 - Ann Baledes & Elaine Strecker
- 23 - Anderson's
- 30 - Carol Farley & Debbie Howe

## **ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

*Kathy Coyle, Coordinator, 529-5983*

- Nov 2 - Patty Bengtson - 8:00
- Emily Lourigan - 10:30
- 9 - Jim Newmark - 8:00
- Kathy Coyle - 10:30
- 16 - Mike Coyle - 8:00
- Art Bruce - 10:30
- 23 - Jerry Vaillancourt - 8:00
- Mary Procyk - 10:30
- 30 - Jim Newmark - 8:00
- Bill Fischer - 10:30

## **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:**

*Sue Agne, Coordinator, 563-0776*

- Nov 2 - Judy Gerken
- 9 - Patty Bengtson
- 16 - Sue Agne
- 23 - Mike Coyle
- 30 - Mary Procyk

## **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:**

*Kathy Coyle, Coordinator, 529-5983*

## **TAPING MINISTRY:**

*Crystal Brozynski, Coordinator, 828-5306*

- Nov - ***Volunteer Needed***

## **FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:**

*Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 529-7588*

- Nov 2 - Pam Speno & Carol Farley
- 9 - Joanna & Allen Piscitello
- 16 - Christine & Rick Intravia
- 23 - Sandra & Ken Slowik
- 30 - Ann Baledes & Lois Woy

## **FINANCE:**

*Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 257-4793*

- Nov 2 - Helen Peterson
- 9 - Lois Woy
- 16 - Harriett Fritsch
- 23 - Art Bruce
- 30 - Betty Lamo

## **LECTORS:**

*Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 529-1939*

- Nov 2 - Winnie Sawrun
- 9 - Lillian Doerschler
- 16 - Sue Agne
- 23 - Carol Bruce
- 30 - Bill Fischer

## **NURSERY:**

*Ann French, Coordinator, 529-3245*

- Nov 2 - AnnMarie & Kate Grottke
- 9 - Amanda & Jaime Piscitello
- 16 - Matt & Julie Perry
- 23 - Margaret & Erica DeBlois
- 30 - Erica, Angela & Grace Durkin

## **USHERS:**

*Brian Beckwith, Coordinator, 8AM, 563-4066*

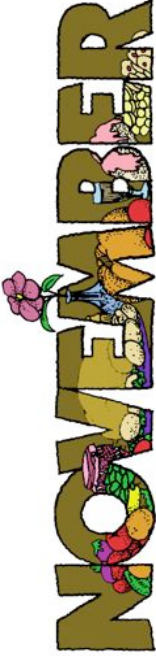
*Louise Lostocco, Coordinator, 10:30AM, 529-3079*

- Nov - Carole & Garrett Hughes - 8:00

- 2 - Curt Leonard & Dick Kratzer - 10:30
- 9 - Bob Bowman & Dick Kratzer
- 16 - Curt Leonard & Walter Rupp
- 23 - Curt Leonard & Walter Rupp
- 30 - Curt Leonard & Walter Rupp

# November 2008

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
							
<b>2 All Saints Sunday</b> Holy Comm. 8:00 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Preuss Baptism 10:30 AM <b>Daylight Savings Ends: Set clocks back ONE HOUR!</b>	<b>3</b> Ed Gentino Downstairs	<b>4 Election Day</b> Outreach Comm. 7PM OA 7:30 PM	<b>5</b> Bible Study 10:30 AM Youth Potluck 5:30PM Confirmation 6:15PM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30PM	<b>6</b> Thur. Grp. 10 AM	<b>7</b> AA 10 AM	<b>8</b> AA 7:30 PM	<b>1</b> AA 7:30 PM
<b>9</b> Holy Comm. 8:00 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM	<b>10</b> Ed Gentino Downstairs	<b>11 Veteran's Day</b> No OA	<b>12</b> Bible Study 10:30 AM Confirmation 6:15PM No AA Choir 7:30PM	<b>13</b> Thur. Grp. 10 AM	<b>14</b> No AA	<b>15</b> <b>Harvest Fair</b> 9AM-3PM No AA <b>Epistle Deadline</b>	
<b>16 Stewardship Sunday</b> Holy Comm. 8:00 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM DiBiase Baptism 10:30 AM	<b>17</b> Scouts 6-8 PM	<b>18</b> OA 7:30 PM	<b>19</b> Bible Study 10:30 AM Youth Pizza 5:30PM Confirmation 6:15PM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30PM	<b>20</b> 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast Thur. Grp. 10 AM	<b>21</b> AA 10 AM	<b>22</b> AA 7:30 PM	
<b>23 Christ the King Sunday</b> Holy Comm. 8:00 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Pastor's Celebration after 10:30 service	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Parish Ad. 6:30PM Council 7:30PM OA 7:30 PM	<b>26</b> No Bible Study No Confirmation AA 7 PM Choir 7:30PM	<b>27 Thanksgiving</b>	<b>28</b> AA 10 AM	<b>29</b> AA 7:30 PM	
<b>30 First Sunday of Advent</b> Holy Comm. 8:00 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM	<b>31</b>						

No Groups this week due to Harvest Craft Fair set up and take down.

**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

Education Hour at 9:00AM

## **OFFICERS AND STAFF**

Rev. Hugh R. B. Haffenreffer, Pastor.....	Office: (860) 529-5397
	Cell Phone: (860) 966-7360
	<i>pastorh@stpaulswethersfield.org</i>
Office Manager .....	Janet Vasel: <i>janet@stpaulswethersfield.org</i>
Council President.....	Linda Anderson
Treasurer .....	Tom Grottke
Financial Sect'y .....	Mary Procyk
Minister of Music .....	Melissa Cheyney
Superintendent of Sunday Church School.....	Alice Ruppap

### **REMINDERS:**

**Sat. Nov. 15 Harvest Fair from 9AM to 3PM**

**Sun. Nov. 16 Stewardship Sunday**

**Sun. Nov. 23 Celebration of Pastor Hugh's 10 year anniversary**

**November 2008**