

# SAINT PAUL'S EPISTLE



## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

371 Wolcott Hill Road,  
Wethersfield, CT 06109  
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(860) 529-5397

## MINISTRY LEADERSHIP & STAFF SUPPORT

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Cathy Evans

## STEWARDSHIP: OUR "YES" TO JESUS

Over the course of the next few months, culminating on Stewardship Sunday, November 24, the people of St. Paul's Church will be reflecting on what it means to be "stewards". (For some highlights of this journey, see the article, "Our Stewardship Campaign" on page 4.) During last year's stewardship campaign we shared a quote, written by the Lutheran educator Clarence C. Stoughton, who observed, "Stewardship is everything you do after you say 'yes' to Jesus Christ." What is the nature of that "yes?"

For some, a "yes" to Jesus may be an intellectual agreement with certain Christian doctrines. If we are asked, "Do you believe in God," some of us might say "yes" because we can't imagine how life could have become so complex without some unimaginably intelligent and powerful Being responsible for it all. If we are asked if we believed that Jesus was God's son, raised from the dead, we might also say "yes," because, again, we can't imagine it *not* being true. We may be drawn to the hope that is promised on Easter, especially when we contemplate our own mortality, or that of a loved one, because deep down inside we are convinced that there is something "more."

But aside from the personal comfort that comes from believing in God or believing in Jesus' resurrection, what *difference* does it all make in the life we are living here and now? So what if we say "yes" to Jesus? How does that affirmation shape our will? How does our "yes" to Jesus affect the care we give to others, the attitude we foster toward wealth, or the way we live on this earth? The "yes" that Clarence Stoughton was referring to, the "yes" of a Christian "steward," encompasses everything in our lives. That "yes" marks us, and the world, forever. Or, at any rate, it should.

For those who say "yes" to Jesus, it all begins in worship. Worship, it can be said, is what we do with every moment of our lives. Consciously or not, when we are drawn in one direction or another, that "being drawn" to something (or, conversely, being repulsed by something) is an act or an instance of worship. Harold Best wrote in *Unceasing Worship*, "Worship is the continuous

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**WORSHIP SCHEDULE: Sundays at 8 and 10:30 AM**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### A FALL ENRICHMENT WEEKEND FOR MARRIED COUPLES!

*November 8-10*

The greatest gift you can give each other is the gift of your time and attention.

Apply now at [GodLovesMarriage.org](http://GodLovesMarriage.org) to attend the November 8 - 10 Marriage Encounter Weekend in Meriden, CT.

You'll communicate on a deeper level, rekindle your romance, and renew your commitment to each other.

For more information, contact Bob and Linda McGurn at 860-653-2173 or [mcgurn@snet.net](mailto:mcgurn@snet.net).

Apply by October 14 to ensure your reservation - it's a Weekend you won't forget!

Jointly sponsored by Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Episcopal Marriage Encounter, and UCC / Disciples of Christ Marriage Encounter.



## THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

A huge "thank you" goes out to Linda Anderson for her many years of service as Altar Guild, Acolyte and SCRIP coordinator. Over the years, Linda has served in these and many other positions faithfully and well. We are forever indebted to her for the countless hours and unbound energy she has dedicated to this congregation, its mission and its people.

Linda has decided to step down from these positions to focus on other ministries. We pray that God will continue to bless her in her new pursuits.

Thank you to Erica DeBlois for being our new gift SCRIP coordinator.

## A WORD ABOUT THE STATE OF OUR OFFERINGS (THROUGH AUGUST)

First the good news: A huge thanks to all of you who have supported the mission of St. Paul's through your financial contributions. In this uncertain economy, your regular giving is a real act of faith.

The "less-than-good" news is that, as of the end of August, many of us were significantly behind in our giving. Where our actual giving is nearly \$21,000 less than we had anticipated, \$10,500 of that (almost exactly half) is due to our being behind in our pledges.

Two things need to be said: First, if our being behind is due to unforeseen financial challenges (a loss of a job, for example), then it is natural that our giving reflect this change, too. This is why it is more important to think of our giving not in terms of specific dollar amounts but in percentages. If, for example, I make a promise to God to give 5% of my income to support the ministries of my congregation, then whether my income goes up, stays the same, or goes down during the year, I still give at the same percentage rate. If that 5% translates into an anticipated weekly giving of \$30, let's say, and my income is suddenly cut in half, then that 5% might turn into my giving only \$15 per week. The important thing is that the percentage stays the same.

Over the next few weeks, as we get closer to Commitment Sunday (or Stewardship Sunday, as it is also called), which will take place on November 24, we will be talking more and more about "proportional giving."

The second point to make is that it's not too late to bring our pledges up-to-date. During the summer it is quite natural to get behind in our giving. It is our hope that we will each make an effort to catch up between now and the end of the year.

Thanks!

# NEWS & NOTES

**The Fair is coming!**

**The Fair is coming!**



**Saturday, November 23, 2013**

**9 am – 3 pm**

**WANTED:** Items for Grandma's Attic.

As you do your fall cleaning please consider donating your gently used treasures and clothing (men, women's and children). No furniture or tools.

Items can be dropped off at church the week of November 17-22.



Please say YES when you are asked to help with the fair. We need everyone's help to make this a success.

Any questions, please contact  
Debbie Viola  
860-529-5051  
debviola6@yahoo.com

## Offerings<sup>†</sup> received through August 2013

Actual	Budget	Over/Under Budget	Annual Budget
82,138	103,128	-20,990	154,700

<sup>†</sup> Offerings include Weekly offerings, special offerings, loose plate, and Sunday School

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outpouring of all that I am, all that I do and all that I can ever become in light of a chosen or choosing god." (p. 18) So, whether we are worshipping intentionally together on a Sunday morning, or unconsciously as we navigate our day full of choices and decisions, we are worshipping beings. We can't *not* worship something or someone.

To worship God in Christ, takes a specific kind of "yes." It takes making tough choices. To say "yes" to God in Christ also means saying "no" to all things, ideas, values, experiences, and persons that might lead us away from God. But . . . the good news, that transcends it all, is that worship is not only seen in light of a "chosen" god (as Best puts it above), but in light of a "choosing" God. In other words, the good news for us "stewards" who desire to say "yes" to Jesus, is that he said "yes" to us first. Jesus is God's "yes" to the human race.

It is our hope that over the course of the next few months we will all come to a deeper idea about the ways we are called to say "yes" to Jesus. We hope and pray that you will join us in that journey.

— Pastor Hugh Haffenreffer



## OUR STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Stewardship Sunday will take place on November 24. It is typical for many, if not most congregations to have a stewardship focus in the fall. Once again our theme for 2014 will be "FREED in Christ for Life." The word FREED is an acronym that will challenge us to **F**ollow Jesus, **l**ive in **R**eality, **i**nvite **E**veryone, **t**rust there is **E**nough, and make a **D**ecision now.

The Stewardship Team is hard at work planning this year's campaign. In early November a postcard will be mailed out inviting all of our people to participate in this journey. During the week prior to Stewardship Sunday a second mailing will go out with more specific information about the campaign and a commitment card. We are hoping that everyone will feel called to respond this year. It is through our response that we each have the opportunity to say "yes" to Jesus.



## MEMBERS IN SERVICE OF OUR WORSHIP LIFE

While talking about how best to put this year's Stewardship Campaign together, it was pointed out that the people of St. Paul's should be invited not only to make a financial commitment in support of our ministries, but that an invitation to make a commitment of Time and Talent should be included. That is why we are taking these few weeks before the start of our campaign to focus on various areas of our worship ministry by posing the question, "How many Lutherans does it take to . . . worship?"

On Sunday, September 22 our focus was on Assisting Ministers and Communion Assistants. On September 29, it will be on Fellowship Hour and Altar Guild. On October 6 we will explore our Ushers, Taping Ministry, and Lectors. On the 13th we'll talk about our Choir and Counting (our financial donations, that is). And, finally, on the 20th, we will highlight Acolytes and our Eucharistic Ministry.

What about all the other important areas of ministry? What about Sunday School and Youth? Or how about all the other ministries that don't take place on Sundays? They have not

been forgotten, nor will they be neglected. We have chosen to focus on these other areas of ministry at another time.

It is our hope that you will listen to the appeals from those who have served in these various capacities and ask them questions. We hope, too, that you will read the weekly highlights in our Sunday Epistle so as to see how each of these ministries contributes to the whole.

How many Lutherans does it take to worship? The more, the merrier.

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## SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

The Thursday Morning Group will be purchasing items needed for our donation to the Christmas-at-Sea project. If you care to make a monetary donation please see Winnie Sawrun.

The packets will contain:

- One sweatshirt, hooded or unhooded (size L-XL)
- Three pairs of socks, thermal or white gym
- One casual pullover T-shirt, (size M-L)
- One knit cap
- One can of nuts or a chocolate bar
- A Christmas card from you!

Some of our ladies are knitting caps and scarves.

**We currently need: sweatshirts, scarves and caps.**

The deadline for donating is October 30th. Thanks!



## CHURCH



## CHAPTERS

St. Paul's Book Club is in full swing in its third season of reading! We meet the second Tuesday of each month. Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 8th at 6:30 at the home of Carol Bruce, 381 Hartford Ave. Wethersfield.

Our October title is the book, *Room* by Emma Donoghue. This book is on reserve at the Wethersfield Library.

Please join us for an evening of great conversation!

If you are able to take part, please contact Carol at 860-257-7327 or [abruce06109@sbcglobal.net](mailto:abruce06109@sbcglobal.net)  
We hope to see you there!!

St. Paul's MEMBERS IN SERVICE for

**OCTOBER 2013**

ACOLYTES:

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Oct 6 - Arden Adamo.....10:30 AM  
13 - TBD .....10:30 AM  
20 - Celia Cheyney .....10:30 AM  
27 - Cameron Cheyney.....10:30 AM

ALTAR GUILD:

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Oct 6 - Mary Procyk  
13 - Debbie Howe  
20 - Bob Bowman & Bill Fisher, Jr.  
27 - Patty Bengtson

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

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Oct 6 - Art Bruce .....8:00 AM  
Bill Fischer, Jr. ....10:30 AM  
13 - JerryValliancourt .....8:00 AM  
Bill Fischer Jr.....10:30 AM  
20 - Jim Newmark.....8:00 AM  
Mary Procyk.....10:30 AM  
27 - Art Bruce .....8:00 AM  
Mike Coyle.....10:30 AM

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

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**Sue Agne, Coordinator, 860-563-0776**

Oct 6 - TBD .....10:30 AM  
13 - Jim Newmark.....10:30 AM  
20 - Patty Bengtson.....10:30 AM  
27 - Mary Procyk.....10:30 AM

TAPING:

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**Jan Pergande, Coordinator, 644-2888**

Oct - Jan Pergande

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:

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**Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 860-529-7588**

Oct 6 - Kaitlin & Linda Anderson  
13 - Lillian Doerschler & Winnie Sawrun  
20 - Mary Procyk & Pam Speno  
27 - Pat & Russ Bengtson

FINANCE:

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**Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 860-257-4793**

Oct 6 - Mike Coyle  
13 - Art Bruce  
20 - Mary Procyk  
27 - Lillian Doerschler

LECTORS:

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**Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 860-529-1939**

Oct 6 - Joan Kratzer .....10:30 AM  
13 - Jeane Serafine.....10:30 AM  
20 - Patty Bengtson.....10:30 AM  
27 - Mary Procyk.....10:30 AM

USHERS:

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**Brian Beckwith, Coordinator; 8:00AM , 860-563-4066**

Oct - Brian Beckwith

**Louise Lostocco, Coordinator, 10:30AM, 860-529-3079**

Oct - Walter Ruppard & William Fischer, Sr.

# OCTOBER 2013 | EVENT CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b> OA 7:30 PM Outreach meeting 7 PM	<b>2</b> AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	<b>3</b> Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM AA 8 PM	<b>4</b> AA 10 AM	<b>5</b> AA 7:30 PM Russian Sch. of Math 11 AM
<b>6</b> <i>20th Sun. after Pentecost</i> <b>Family Sunday</b> Holy Comm. 8 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM	<b>7</b> CA 7:30 PM	<b>8</b> OA 7:30 PM Church Chapters 6:30 PM	<b>9</b> AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	<b>10</b> Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM AA 8 PM	<b>11</b> AA 10 AM	<b>12</b> AA 7:30 PM Russian Sch. of Math 11 AM
<b>13</b> <i>21st Sun. after Pentecost</i> Holy Comm. 8 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM	<b>14</b> <b>Columbus Day</b> CA 7:30 PM Cub Scout 6 PM	<b>15</b> OA 7:30 PM <i>Epistle Deadline</i>	<b>16</b> AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	<b>17</b> Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM AA 8 PM	<b>18</b> AA 10 AM	<b>19</b> AA 7:30 PM Russian Sch. of Math 11 AM
<b>20</b> <i>22nd Sun. after Pentecost</i> Holy Comm. 8 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM	<b>21</b> CA 7:30 PM	<b>22</b> OA 7:30 PM	<b>23</b> AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	<b>24</b> Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM AA 8 PM	<b>25</b> AA 10 AM	<b>26</b> AA 7:30 PM Russian Sch. of Math 11 AM
<b>27</b> <i>Reformation Sunday</i> "F.R.E.E.D. in Christ" campaign starts: Theme: Follow Jesus Holy Comm. 8 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM	<b>28</b> CA 7:30 PM	<b>29</b> OA 7:30 PM	<b>30</b> AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	<b>31</b> <i>Reformation Day</i> Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM AA 8 PM		

# SAINT PAUL'S EPISTLE

**Saint Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church**

371 Wolcott Hill Road

Wethersfield, CT 06109

[www.stpaulswethersfield.org](http://www.stpaulswethersfield.org)

## October 2013

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