

June 2014

Volume 72, Number 6

SAINT PAUL'S EPISTLE



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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THOUGHTS AS SUMMER APPROACHES

On June 15 we will begin our summer schedule (one service at 9 AM) and soon after that we will be in full "summer mode." By "summer mode" I mean two things: First, we will be able to kick back a bit, enjoy the weather, take a vacation (if we are able), unplug from the world for a moment, slow things down, savor the moment, etc.; and secondly, many will take time off from worship.

The first understanding of "summer mode" is good. It's important that we each find a means, perhaps even an excuse, to take a break from the busyness of our normal, frantic routines. It's not good for us—physically or spiritually—to be "on the go" all the time. Our society seems to promote the notion that if we aren't perpetually "busy" we have lost something of value. And what is it that we are being busy with? What are we all running after (or away from)? And if we were ever to catch it (or catch up to it), would things be any different?

To be honest, our running around being busy can often be a means to run away from ourselves. If we aren't extremely busy, filling every moment with stuff to do (or things to complain about) we end up having to face ourselves. And when we do, some of us can discover an emptiness that can be overwhelming. It's as if all the running around, all the constant distractions, all our being "plugged in" 24-7, are like a palliative medication, temporarily numbing a pain deep within our hearts.

Maybe this summer will afford us an opportunity to get to know, and appreciate, the person we look at in the mirror each day, and the people around us, in a new way.

Which leads to the second part—the "taking time off from worship" part. First, there really is no such thing. Worship, understood in its fullest sense, is what we do—consciously or unconsciously—every moment of our lives. In his book, *Unceasing Worship*, Harold Best writes that, "Worship is the continuous 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." Whether in a church worship service or in our cars on the way to the beach, we are worshipping. Worship is like breathing air; we can't *not* do it. Or maybe it's like eating food. Everyone must feed

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE: Sundays at 8 and 10:30 AM
Summer Hours: Sundays at 9 AM (starting June 15)

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on something or else we starve to death. Eating in itself is not really a choice. *What* we eat is. Worship, as a natural aspect of human existence—as defined by Best—is not a matter of choice, either. What we *can* do, however, is make a conscious choice about whom (or what) we worship. What “food” we are going to put in our hearts?

So, while some of us may take time away from our routines and intentionally slow things down, let us not forget that while we may be on vacation, Christ never is. Whether in a church or on a beach, whether in our yard or in a traffic jam, Christ will be there, bidding us to listen to his voice and follow. And that empty place that can gnaw in us when we are no longer being distracted? Summer is the perfect time to fill those empty places with the One who *can* feed us—Jesus. Maybe, when we are “unplugged” from the world this summer, we will find the time to plug into God. And may the feast begin.

Pr. Hugh

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

From our latest Church Council meeting, which took place on May 20, several highlights are worth sharing. First, as we examined our offering income through April (which includes weekly offerings, special offerings, loose plate, and Sunday School), we found a significant turn-around when compared to March. In the chart below you will see that as of the end of April, our “offerings” have come in just *ahead* of the amount we had established in our budget, by \$48. (At the end of March we were *behind* by \$4,118.) This is good news.

Of course, as we explored our financial reports in more detail, we were still running a significant deficit—more than \$21,000. This is due in part to the severe winter that pushed us over our budget in snow removal and utilities by more than \$4,700. It’s mostly due, however, to the fact that our expenses are chronically greater than our income—a trend that we have discussed at length before and that must be changed if we wish to continue our ministries here on Wolcott Hill Road.

The second highlight has to do with a conversation that dominated our meeting time. We started to brainstorm (heart storm?) about ways to turn St. Paul’s around. The important word here is “started.” As Council, we want to gather together the best and most creative ideas about how to rejuvenate our congregation. We want to begin trying new things. We want to unleash the Holy Spirit and watch things take off. As has been stated in the past, we can’t fundraise nor cut our way to congregational health. We can only grow our way to health. And this growth will come as we reach out and share what God is doing in our midst with others.

If you would like to join the conversation, let us know. Our next council meeting is June 17 (one week earlier than normal due to VBC taking place the next week). We welcome any ideas you might have.

Offerings [†] received through April 2014			
Actual	Budget	Over/Under Budget	Annual Budget
46,492	46,444	48	139,350
[†] Offerings include Weekly offerings, special offerings, loose plate, and Sunday School			

NEWS & NOTES



VACATION BIBLE CAMP

Sunday, June 22nd – Thursday, June 26th

5:30 p.m. Dinner

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Camp

Music, Games, Experiments, Bible Adventures and More!

Join us for the most fun event of the year!

- VBC is available for children Preschool – Grade 5.
- Registration deadline is Sunday, June 1st.
- Registration Forms are available in Fellowship Hall

Older children can volunteer as group leaders! Volunteers of all ages needed for decorating committee and week of camp!

See sign up sheet in fellowship hall or contact Cathy Evans.

YOUTH FUNDRAISER CAR WASH & BAKE SALE

Saturday, June 14, from 9 AM to 12 PM

(Rain date: Saturday, June 21)

Tickets will go on sale after both services
on June 1 and 8.

***All funds raised will help our youths attend
the National Youth Gathering
in Detroit, Michigan, in July 2015***

SAVE THE DATE!

HOLIDAY FAIR

Saturday, November 22, 2014

9AM – 2PM

Come one. Come all.....

To a Holiday Fair planning meeting on:

Sunday June 8th @ 9:00 AM

Planning for St. Paul's highly anticipated annual Holiday Fair is well underway. We would love to have you join us to share your thoughts and ideas. Chairpersons are needed for various booths. We will also discuss where the money should be distributed. The lists of proposed benefiting charities are: Smile Train, Wethersfield Social/Youth Services and Special Needs, Low Vision Center – New Britain, Chrysalis Center – Hartford, ELCA, and Autism Families CONNECTicut. If you would like to learn more about the fair, participate on fair day, share your time, talent(s), and treasure(s) please considering joining us on Sunday, June 8th @ 9:00 a.m. as we continue to prepare for this year's fair.

Please Note: Donations are currently being accepted for Grandma's Attic, jars for the country store, and crafters to help assemble homemade craft items.

All Are Welcome!

Thank you,

The Holiday Fair Committee

Wm. Fischer, Jr., Chairperson

NURSERY HELP NEEDED

While every parent loves to have their children with them during worship, there are times when this can be a challenge even for the most patient Mom or Dad. Help is needed to provide regular nursery coverage for infants and children too young to attend Sunday Church School. If you would be willing to help organize this, please contact Pastor Hugh.

In the meantime, for parents who would like a place to escape to with their children *and still listen to the service*, we do have our Noah's Ark Nursery on the 2nd floor of the PE Building. Check it out if you haven't already.

etcetera...

ST. PAUL'S GIVING TREE

Our Giving Tree focus for the month of June is **Vacation Bible Camp**. Our Vacation Bible Camp (taking place June 22 through the 26th) has proven to be an important part of our ministry to children and their families. Your help will insure that we are able to continue this ministry this year and for years to come!

Giving Tree envelopes have been placed in the pews in church to make it easier to place in the offering plate during Sunday Worship.

As always, the Giving Tree remains in the Fellowship Hall with many leaves to choose that include other areas of our Ministry that will be a focus in the upcoming months. Any amount will be greatly appreciated! THANK YOU!!

If you have any questions, please give Sue Agne a call (860-563-0776)

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Opportunity to Volunteer: June 14

Highlights include:

- The Thrivent House is located at 17 Bernie Ave in Bristol, CT
- 15 building volunteers are required per build day—other volunteers are needed to provide lunch and snacks.
- Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age
- Each volunteer coming onto the build site must complete a release of liability waiver online prior to their build day
- Volunteers must arrive on the build site by 7:45 am for the safety talk and expect to be there until 4 pm
- Wear appropriate clothing. T-shirts, rugged pants/shorts. No loose clothing that cannot be tucked into outerwear such as scarves, etc. Be prepared that clothes can be ruined while volunteering. Working with construction materials can destroy clothing
- Dress in Layers; be sure to dress appropriately according to the weather
- Wear protective footwear (solid soles, covered toes)
- Please bring construction gloves if you have your own pair. If you have your own tool belt, hammer or safety glasses bring them as well.
- If we have to cancel due to weather/emergency Habitat will make the cancellation call by 6:30 AM to the group's leader.

For more information, talk to Jim Newmark. Have a GREAT TIME and thank you for volunteering!

2015 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING EXPLORATION MEETING

**FOR ALL YOUTHS (GRADES 7 -11)
AND THEIR PARENTS
Tuesday, June 10 at 7PM**

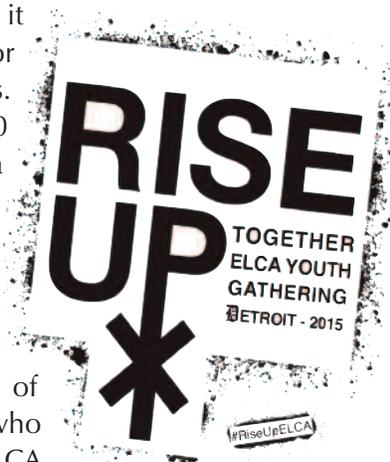
July 2015 is fast approaching and with it the next ELCA National Youth Gathering which will take place in Detroit, Michigan that month. Any youths who will be graduating from 8th through 12th grades in the spring of 2015 are eligible to attend.

There is no way to express how important an event like this is for building up the faith of our young people. And, at the same time, it is a huge decision for youths and their parents.

On Tuesday, June 10 at 7PM, we will hold a meeting of any youths and parents who would like information about the 2015 Gathering. At that time we are hoping to have several of our young people who have attended an ELCA Youth Gathering in the past to share their experiences with us. (Anyone in the congregation who would like to know more about the Gathering, even out of mere curiosity, is invited to attend.)

Even if a youth and/or his or her parents have already made a decision against attending the Gathering, they are strongly encouraged to come to this meeting. While ***no pressure to change anyone's mind*** will be applied, this meeting has been designed in the belief that a decision concerning an event of this magnitude should be made in light of as much background information as possible so as to better make a final, faithful decision.

For more information about the meeting, or the Gathering, please contact Missy Cheyney (860-257-4558), Margaret DeBlois (860-665-0428) or Pastor Hugh.



NEW ENGLAND SYNOD ASSEMBLY DONATION APPEAL

June 5 - 7, 2014

Congregations: Put Your Faith in Action!
Please bring donations from the items below.

Donations to Lutheran Social Services for survivors of human trafficking, refugees and asylum seekers.

- ♥ Pillows (new)
- ♥ Blankets: twin or full size (new)
- ♥ Gift Cards: Wal-Mart or Target
- ♥ Toiletry items (full size preferred)
 - Feminine hygiene products
 - Razors
 - Shampoo
 - Bar soap
 - Toothpaste
 - Toothbrushes, dental floss
 - Deodorant
 - Hair brush/comb

Donations to New England WELCA for Footprints, a program to prevent child abuse, trafficking of minors and domestic violence within vulnerable groups.

- ♥ Sneakers or shoes (new) for children ages 5 through 12 years
- ♥ Socks (new) for children ages 5 through 12 years
- ♥ Hand Towels

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

1 Peter 4:10

For questions please contact: Sister Carol Weaver, LSS Church Relations cweaver@lssne.org or 774.243.3929

St. Paul's MEMBERS IN SERVICE for
June 2014

ACOLYTES:

June 1 - Brayson Bernard 10:30 AM
8 - Cameron Cheyney 10:30 AM
15 - Bryce Gentino 10:30 AM
22 - Breen Bernard 10:30 AM
29 - Collin Grottke 10:30 AM

ALTAR GUILD:

Debbie Howe, Coordinator, 860-529-8583

June 1 - Winnie Sawrun & Ann French
8 - Deb Howe & Donna Camillo
15 - Tracy Newmark & Mary Procyk
22 - Bob Bowman & Bill Fischer, Jr.
29 - Tracy Newmark & Patty Bengtson

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

June 1 - Patty Bengtson 8:00 AM
Mary Procyk 10:30 AM
8 - Jim Newmark 8:00 AM
Jerry Vaillancourt 10:30 AM
15 - William Fischer Jr. 9:00 AM
22 - Mary Procyk 9:00 AM
29 - Jim Newmark 9:00 AM

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Sue Agne, Coordinator, 860-563-0776

June 1 - *No Communion*
8 - Mary Procyk
15 - Dick Agne
22 - Patty Bengtson
29 - Lillian Doerschler

TAPING:

Jan Pergande, Coordinator, 860-644-2888

June - Heather Christensen

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:

Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 860-529-7588

June 1 - Lillian Doerschler & Winnie Sawrun
8 - Carol Hopkins & Jackie Fischer
15 - Patty & Russ Bengtson
22 - Helen Peterson
29 - Art & Carol Bruce

FINANCE:

Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 860-257-4793

June 1 - Helen Peterson
8 - Dick Agne
15 - Kathy DiMartino
22 - Lois Woy
29 - Bob Bowman

LECTORS:

Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 860-529-1939

June 1 - Winnie Sawrun
8 - Joan Kratzer
15 - Sue Agne
22 - Lillian Doerschler
29 - Jim Newmark

USHERS:

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

June - Brian Beckwith (through June 8th)

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

June - George & Debbie Howe
(10:30 AM through June 8th,
9 AM starting on June 15)

Please note:

Our Summer Worship schedule begins on June 15 with one service at 9:00 AM

JUNE 2014 | EVENT CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 Seventh Sunday of Easter Serv. of the Word 8 & 10:30 AM	2	3 Outreach 7PM	4 AA 10 AM AA 7 PM	5 New England Synod Assembly, Springfield, MA Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM	6 AA 10 AM Torres rental set up 6 PM	7 Music Score Concert 12 PM Torres Party 6 PM AA 7:30 PM
8 Day of Pentecost Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30 AM Holiday Fair Planning Mtg. 9 AM Healing Time to follow both services	9	10 ELCA Youth Gathering Info Meeting 7 PM	11 AA 10 AM AA 7 PM	12 Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM	13 AA 10 AM	14 Habitat for Humanity Youth Car Wash and Bake Sale 9 AM to 12 PM AA 7:30 PM
15 The Holy Trinity Fathers Day Holy Comm. 9:00 AM Baptism of Adalynn Barwikowski Summer Schedule Starts	16	17 Parish Admin. 6:30 PM Ch. Council 7:30 PM	18 AA 10 AM AA 7 PM	19 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thirty One 6 PM Choir picnic 6 PM	20 AA 10 AM	21 AA 7:30 PM
22 2nd Sun. after Pentecost Holy Comm. 9:00 AM	23	24	25 AA 10 AM	26 Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM	27 AA 10 AM	28 AA 7:30 PM
St. Paul's Annual Vacation Bible Camp: Sunday - Thursday, 5:30 - 8:00 PM						
			AA 7 PM			
29 3rd Sun. after Pentecost Peter & Paul Apostles Holy Comm. 9:00 AM	30	31	Notes for June: NE Synod Assembly, June 5 through 7 Youth Car Wash and Bake Sale, June 14, 9 AM - 12 PM Summer Schedule begins June 15. One service at 9 AM Vacation Bible Camp, June 22 through 26, 5:30 to 8:00 PM			

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