

March 2015

Volume 73, Number 3

SAINT PAUL'S EPISTLE



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Melissa Cheyney

SUPERINTENDENT OF SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

Cathy Evans

FROM CRISIS TO OPPORTUNITY

For some months now the people of St. Paul's have been taking an honest look at the state of our congregation, especially its financial health. This inward journey has produced two responses: one has been to cut expenses to the bone in an effort to ensure our ability to pay essential bills and continue our existence in Wethersfield; the other has been to generate an important conversation about what it means to be the body of Christ and to live by faith. While the first response may allow us time to discern God's will for us *and* to take positive steps to bring about needed change, it risks being motivated more by fear of the "what-ifs" than by a confident faith in God. Likewise, while the second response has started some "out-of-the-box" thinking about future possibilities, it runs the risk of becoming a source of chaos and unmanageable complexity if it is not at the same time tempered by the discipline of discernment.

The bottom line is that **God has not finished with us yet**. But . . . to follow Christ we must first be able to discern where Christ is leading us, and then be willing get up, leave behind the familiar and comfortable, and **go**.

Obstacles and challenges (such as those faced by St. Paul's) can be scary. We would feel much more at ease and confident about our future if we suddenly discovered a source of revenue that would allow us to restore our budget to levels we've experienced in the past. The problem with this thinking is that it blinds us to a deeper and more fundamental truth: obstacles need not be a curse. When viewed in the right way, they can actually hold the key to unexpected blessings. The critical difference is *faith*.

In his book, *The Obstacle Is the Way: The Timeless Art of Turning Trials into Triumphs*, Ryan Holiday tells this story:

Once as the Athenian general Pericles cast off on a naval mission in the Peloponnesian War, the sun was eclipsed and his fleet of 150 ships was cast into darkness.

Surprised by this unexpected and confusing event, his men were thrown into a state of panic. Unlike the crew, Pericles was undaunted. He walked up to a lead steersman, removed the cloak he was wearing, and held it up around the man's face. He asked the man if he was scared of what he saw.

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Sundays at 8 and 10:30 AM; Thursdays at 7 PM

NEWS & NOTES



HAWKWING CANDY AND BAKE SALE

There will be a Hawkwing Fundraiser Candy & Bake sale held before and after both services on March 29th to benefit this summer's Mission Trip. Please make sure you pick up some Goodies.

HOSPITALITY AND INVITATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Please join us on Tuesday, March 3rd at 6:30 pm for a meeting to plan for our upcoming Bring a Friend Sunday, scheduled for the end of April. Contact Debbie Viola with any questions.

FOOD PANTRY CONTRIBUTIONS

As most of you are aware, the recent changes to our food pantry operation are such that we can better use cash contributions than food donations. Several of you have asked how these contributions can be made. If you choose to assist in this ministry, simply place your cash or check in your offering envelope designated to **Food Pantry** in the "other" block next to "weekly offering".

Please **do not** indicate "Foodshare", as any donations to them will go to the warehouse in Bloomfield and not benefit us here. We appreciate your interest in our effort to continue what we do.

Thanks from the Outreach Committee

NEW OFFICE HOURS

- St. Paul's office will be closed on Mondays.
- Karen's new hours are Tuesday thru Friday 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

CHURCH CHAPTERS

Our monthly meeting will be held on March 10th at 6:30 pm at the home of Carole Hughes.

Our book for this next gathering will be *Barbie and Ruth*, by Ruth Gerber. According to Amazon, it is "the remarkable true story of the world's most famous toy and the woman who created her. It is a fascinating account of how one visionary woman and her product changed an industry and sparked a lasting debate about women's roles." Bring your Barbie doll to the meeting!

Books will be available at the Wethersfield Public Library, saved under "St. Paul's Book Club."

April Title: To Be Decided! Bring along your suggestions for our next book!

All are welcome!

If you have any questions, please call Sue Agne: 860-563-0776.



ST. PAUL'S GIVING TREE

For the month of March, our Giving Tree has grown shamrocks! We have again selected as our Monthly Focus the collection of donations for snow removal. With the many snowstorms that we have had in February, and the unknown number of inches that may still be to come this winter, we may easily run over budget.

Please consider using the envelopes in the pews or those hanging near the Giving Tree in the Fellowship Hall to make your donation. Thanks!

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No, of course not.

So what does it matter, Pericles replied, when the cause of the darkness differs?

The Greeks were clever. But beneath this particular quip is the fundamental notion that girds not just Stoic philosophy but cognitive psychology: *Perspective is everything.*

As people of faith, trusting in the One who created the universe and all that exists and who raised Jesus from death to life, we have been given the gift of a **new perspective**. When we face an obstacle, even one that seems insurmountable, we are able to draw upon a promise rooted in the God "who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist." (Romans 4:17) What may *seem* like an obstacle to our future is really a matter of perspective.

If we view the world through eyes of fear, then the obstacle will stop us in our tracks. If our perspective is transformed by trusting that God will show us the way, and if this trust translates into faithful action, then we will have learned an important lesson: Our hope is found **not** in how much we can store up in our bank accounts. Our hope is found in (and **only** in) God. With God restoring our perspective and offering hope any temporary obstacle we encounter will become an opportunity to grow in faith. This faith will empower us to follow Christ into our promised bright future.

Pastor Hugh

PLEDGE UPDATE

After our votes on the budget on Jan. 25 and Feb. 8th, we had quite a few people amend their pledges. As it stands right now we have 15 re-pledges and 4 new pledges which translates to over \$7,000 in increased giving for 2015.

Thank you to everyone who made the extra effort and have the faith to continue our mission here at St. Paul's. While Mary Procyk still had to pull from savings to make February's expenses, I think we're on the right track. Our expenses were inflated largely because of snow removal which is hard to predict.

We're not out of the woods yet but I'm confident that we have the strength in our faith to keep this momentum going.

For those who wish to but haven't yet had the opportunity to amend the level of their giving, pledge cards are available in the church office and just outside the entrance to the sanctuary.

Again, thanks to all who have made this show of faith. It is an honor and a privilege to be a part of this caring community. With God's help I know we will continue to be able to do His work for years to come.

In Christ,

Russ Bengtson

PLEASE DONATE YOUR BOTTLES

The Youth bottle collection is down about 50%. The Youth would like to see it back to the normal collection so they don't have to ask the members for money for their trip to Detroit, which will occur in July 2015.

In an effort to help we are asking you to bring in your bottle each Sunday. Mr. William Fischer, Sr. will be collecting for the youth. You can contact him with any questions or concerns, as well as to donate your returnable bottles and cans. He can be reached at 860-257-1787.

Thanks for supporting our youth.

A QUOTE WORTH PONDERING

The line between good and evil, hope and despair, does not divide the world between "us" and "them". It runs down the middle of every one of us.

I do not want to talk about what you understand about this world. I want to know what you will do about it.

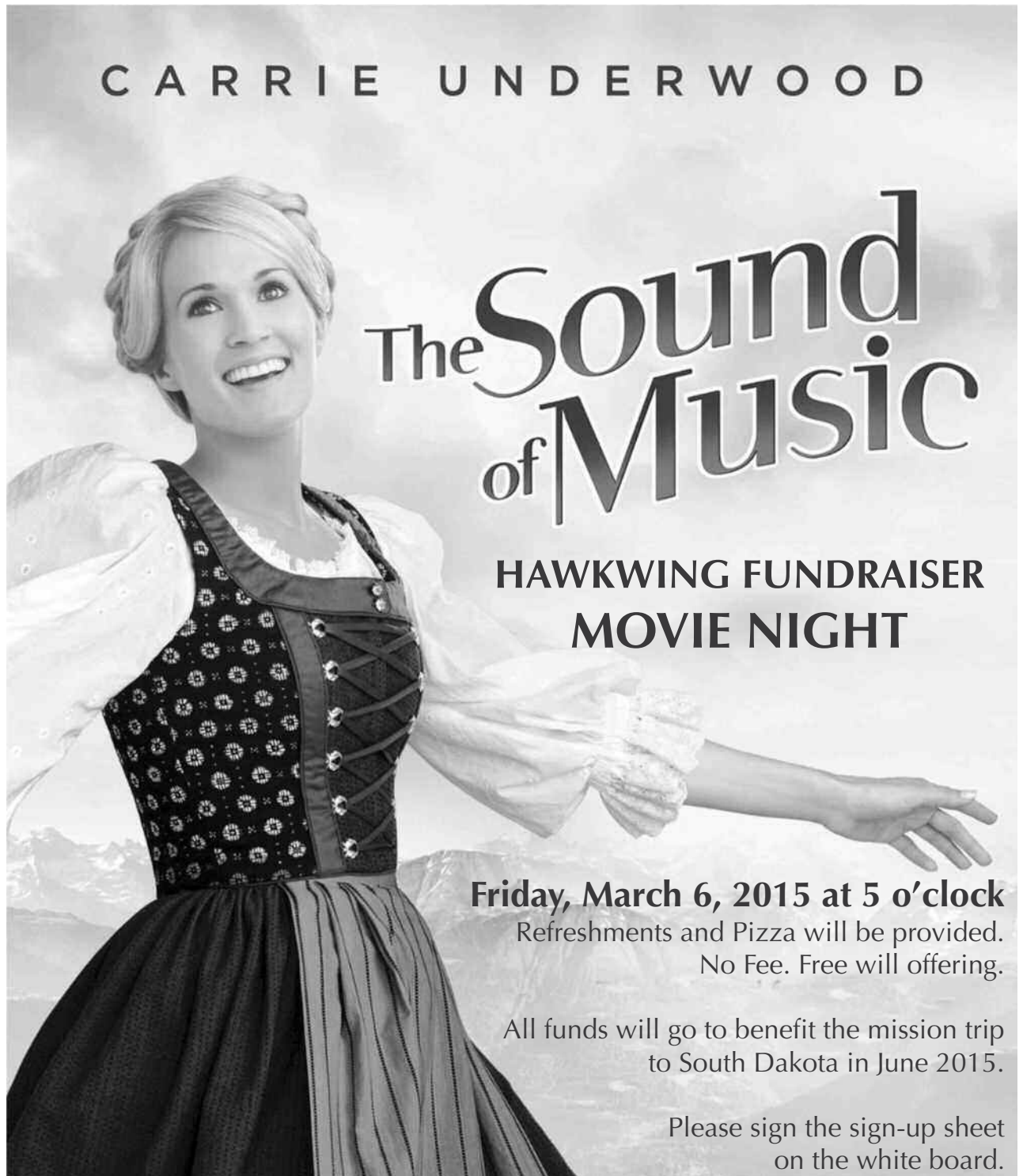
I do not want to know what you hope. I want to know what you will work for.

I do not want your sympathy for the needs of humanity. I want your muscle.

As the wagon driver said when they came to a long hard hill, "Them that's going on with us, get out and push. Them that ain't, get out of the way."

-Robert Fulghum, author of *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*

etcetera...



CARRIE UNDERWOOD

The Sound
of Music

HAWKWING FUNDRAISER
MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, March 6, 2015 at 5 o'clock
Refreshments and Pizza will be provided.
No Fee. Free will offering.

All funds will go to benefit the mission trip
to South Dakota in June 2015.

Please sign the sign-up sheet
on the white board.



A LENTEN EASTER EGG HUNT

Breaking just a bit from tradition, our annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place not on the Saturday before Easter, but one week earlier:

The date: Saturday, March 28th
The time: 10:00 am
For whom: All children up to Grade 5
We'll have three groups of egg seekers:
Toddler-Pre-K
K-2
3-5

Bring your own basket!

Candy donations are welcomed.
Please place them in the donation box in Fellowship Hall.



DON'T FORGET:

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 8 at 2 am. Be sure to set your clocks **AHEAD** one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

EASTER BREAKFAST

Please join us Easter Sunday
8:30 to 10:30
Free will offering

Please contact Brian Beckwith or Debbie Viola if you would like to help on Saturday (set up) or Sunday. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

EASTER MEMORIAL GARDEN

If you wish to purchase a plant for Easter Sunday, plants will be \$12.00 each. Orders (including payment) must be in to the church office by Sunday, March 22nd. Please indicate if you would like to keep your plant or wish to have it delivered to a church member in need of some cheer.

2015 Easter Memorial Garden - Easter Lilly Order Form

Given in memory of: _____

Please print name(s) exactly as you want it (them) to appear

Given by: _____

Please print name(s) exactly as you want it (them) to appear

Yes, I want to **keep** my plant(s) I want to **donate** my plant(s)

Amount \$ _____ (Note: cost per plant is \$12)

Checks should be made to the order of **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

Memo: "2015 Easter Memorial Garden"



St. Paul's MEMBERS IN SERVICE for MARCH 2015

ACOLYTES:

March 1 - Brayson Bernard
8 - Celia Cheyney*
15 - Cameron Cheyney
18 - Breen Bernard
22 - Jared Christensen
29 - Jared Christesen

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:

Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 860-529-7588
March 1 - Jackie Fischer & Pam Speno
8 - Patty & Russ Bengtson*
15 - Lee Ann & Andy Power
22 - Heidi Boutin & Lillian Doerschler
29 - Amanda & Debbie Viola

ALTAR GUILD:

Debbie Howe, Coordinator, 860-529-8583
March 1 - Bob Bowman & Bill Fischer, Jr.
8 - Patty Bengtson
15 - Tracy Newmark & Mary Procyk
22 - Jennie Dotts & Deb Howe
29 - Winnie Sawrun & Ann French

FINANCE:

Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 860-257-4793
March 1 - Mary Procyk
8 - Kathy DiMartino*
15 - Bob Bowman
22 - Debbie Viola
29 - George Howe

ASSISTING MINISTERS

March 1 - Jim Newmark8:00 AM
William Fischer, Jr.10:30 AM
8 - Patty Bengtson8:00 AM*
Jerry Vaillancourt.10:30 AM*
15 - Debbie Viola8:00 AM
Mary Procyk.10:30 AM
22 - Art Bruce8:00 AM
William Fischer, Jr.10:30 AM
29 - Jim Newmark8:00 AM
Jerry Vaillancourt10:30 AM

READERS:

Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 860-529-1939
March 1 - Mary Procyk
8 - Jeanette Serafine*
15 - Sue Agne
22 - Dave Bayek
29 - George Howe (Palm Sunday)

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Sue Agne, Coordinator, 860-563-0776
March 1 - Walter Ruppap
8 - Curt Leonard*
15 - Carol Hughes
22 - Lillian Doerschler
29 - Patty Bengtson

USHERS:

Brian Beckwith, Coordinator; 8:00AM, 860-563-4066
March - Brian Beckwith
Louise Lostocco, Coordinator, 10:30AM, 860-529-3079
March 1 - Bob Bowman & Patrick Farley
8 - Bob Bowman & Patrick Farley*
15 - George & Debbie Howe
22 - George & Debbie Howe
29 - George & Debbie Howe

TAPING:

Jan Pergande, Coordinator, 860-644-2888
March - Dave Bayek

*** DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME begins on Sunday, March 8. Don't forget to set your clocks AHEAD one hour when you go to bed Saturday night.**

MARCH 2015 | EVENT CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 2nd Sun. in Lent Worship Unceasingly <i>Family Sunday</i> Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30 AM First Comm. Instruction 9 AM Outreach Mtg. 12 NOON Lenten Program 12:15 PM	2	3 Hospitality & Invitation Meeting, 6:30 PM	4 AA 10 AM Lenten Prog. 10 AM Supper 5:30 PM AA 7 PM Ev. Prayer 7 PM Choir 7:45 PM	5 Recovery Lenten Prog. 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship in Lent 7 PM	6 AA 10:00 AM Hawkwing Movie Night: <i>The New Sound of Music</i> 5 PM	7 AA 7:30 PM SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR TONIGHT!
8 3rd Sun. in Lent Proclaim Boldly DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30 AM First Comm. Instruction 9 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Lenten Program 12:15 PM	9 Cub Scouts 6 PM	10 Ch. Chapters 6:30 PM Worship & Music 7 PM	11 AA 10 AM Lenten Prog. 10 AM Supper 5:30 PM AA 7 PM Ev. Prayer 7 PM Choir 7:45 PM	12 Recovery Lenten Prog. 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship in Lent 7 PM	13 AA 10:00 AM	14 Memorial Serv. for Joe Kobrzycki 11 AM AA 7:30 PM
15 4th Sun. in Lent Serve as Jesus <i>No Sunday School</i> Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30 AM First Communion 10:30 AM Lenten Program 12:15 PM	16	17	18 AA 10 AM Lenten Prog. 10 AM Supper 5:30 PM AA 7 PM Ev. Prayer 7 PM Choir 7:45 PM	19 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM Recovery Lenten Prog. 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship in Lent 7 PM	20 AA 10:00 AM	21 AA 7:30 PM
22 5th Sun. in Lent Witness to Justice Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Lenten Program 12:15 PM	23	24 Communication 6 PM Parish Admin. 6:30 PM Ch. Council 7:30 PM	25 AA 10 AM Lenten Prog. 10 AM Supper 5:30 PM AA 7 PM Ev. Prayer 7 PM Choir 7:45 PM	26 Recovery Lenten Prog. 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship in Lent 7 PM	27 AA 10:00 AM	28 "Lenten" Easter Egg Hunt 10 AM AA 7:30 PM
29 Palm/Passion Sun. Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Bake and Candy Sale following each service	30	31	Highlights for March: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hawkwing Movie Night: Friday, March 6, 5 PM • "Lenten" Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, March 28, 10 AM 			

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