

May 2015

Volume 73, Number 5

SAINT PAUL'S EPISTLE



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Cathy Evans

CAN THESE DRY BONES LIVE?

(First printed June 2009)

The alternate reading for the First Lesson on Pentecost Sunday is from Ezekiel chapter 37. It is that strange, if not a bit gruesome, vision of the valley of dry bones.

Ezekiel was a prophet of the 6th century BC. He probably got his start as a priest in the Temple in Jerusalem. When the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar, forced the Kingdom of Judah (all that was left of the once united Israel) to surrender, many of Judah's elite were sent into exile in Babylonia. Ezekiel was one of these original deportees. A few years later, following an attempt to revolt against their Babylonian occupiers, Jerusalem was sacked and the temple completely destroyed.

With everything that the people of Israel and Judah held dear now gone or destroyed, and having been forcibly removed from their homeland and held captive in a foreign and hostile land, Ezekiel's fellow Israelites despaired. They naturally felt as if their God had abandoned and forgotten them. They cried out to God, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." (Ezekiel 37:11)

After a period of nearly 22 years of silence, Ezekiel finally spoke words of comfort and hope to his people. In chapter 37, Ezekiel has a vision of a valley full of dry bones. God asks Ezekiel the question, "Mortal, can these bones live?" Ezekiel responds that only God knows. And then he is commanded to prophesy to the bones. And the power of his message, God's word, restores the people, turning them from lifeless, disconnected, dry bones into the living, breathing, hoping people of God.

As a child I marveled at the strange yet wonderful vision that Ezekiel depicted. Here the natural course of decomposition was reversed. A whole valley full of death and bones was transformed into one brimming with life and hope. And, as God explains, here the lifeless and hopeless people of Israel become a people empowered by a promise of restoration.

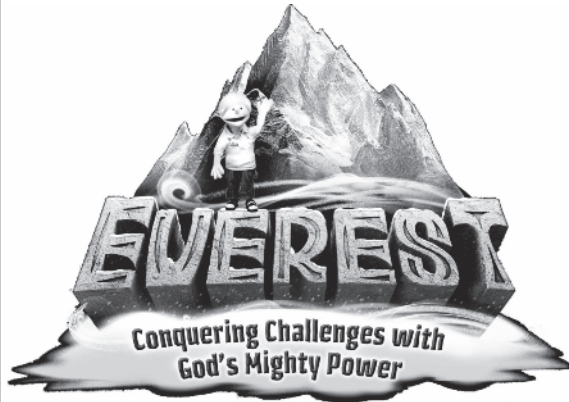
We too, can echo the words of Israel, "Our bones are dried up, and our

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

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

NEWS & NOTES



VACATION BIBLE CAMP

Monday, June 22nd – Thursday, June 25th
5:30 p.m. Dinner
6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Camp

Music, Games, 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 7th. Registration forms are available in the Fellowship Hall.
Older children can volunteer as group

leaders! Volunteers of all ages are needed for the Decorating Committee, making food and helping during the week of camp! See sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall or contact Missy Cheyney or Julie Perry.

2015 HOLIDAY FAIR PLANNING MEETING Sunday, May 24, 2015 @9:00 AM

St. Paul's Holiday Fair Committee will be holding its first meeting in 2015 to review pros and cons from the past fair and prepare for this year's fair. Please consider joining us on **Sunday May 24th**.

All Are Welcome!

Thank you in advance for your consideration. —*Holiday Fair Committee*

BOTTLE DONATION

Please continue to bring in your bottles to support two of our youths (Cameron and Celia Cheyney) attending this Summer's National Youth Gathering. We are asking you to bring in your bottles and cans each Sunday (or whenever you are at Church). Collection buckets are located in the coat room & PE Building. Mr. William Fischer Sr. is coordinating this ongoing project. For more info, he can be reached at 860-257-1787. Thanks for your support!

THANK YOU!

— to Chris Bengtson for installing our new water heater for the church.

— to the Thursday Morning Group for purchasing new coffee pots for the downstairs kitchen.

hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Whether it be because of a personal loss or a family tragedy, a present misfortune or a future threat, life can seem overwhelming at times. And this experience can be, for some, unrelenting and never ending.

Pentecost is about God breathing life back into dry, lifeless bones. Our bones, too. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit—and in both Greek and Hebrew, the word for spirit is the same for both wind and breath—we, like the ancient Israelites, have hope of renewal. Our future, even when we feel completely cut off, becomes open to countless possibilities. Death and its evil minions no longer hold any power over us.

Can our dry bones live again? Can our hope be restored? The voice of the prophet assures us with an unequivocal, "Yes."

Pastor Hugh Haffenreffer

CAR WASH & BAKE SALE

**Saturday May 2nd
9am – 12pm**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

- Car Wash Tickets are on sale in the Fellowship Hall or can be purchased the day of the event.
- Car Wash benefits the youth gathering in Detroit City 2015.
- Pick-up freshly-baked, ready to eat, homemade desserts, snacks and other goodies.
- Bake Sale benefits the 2015 mission trip.

Thank you for your support!

Rain Date Saturday May 9th

St. Paul's to host monthly community dinners

ZACHARY'S TABLE

The Outreach Committee has been working toward planning events that will help feed members of our Wethersfield community. We will hold our **first monthly community pasta dinner on May 19th**. It will be held in the P.E. Building lower level.

Donna Camillo and her son Zachary Parker (the inspiration for this idea) have contacts at Town Hall and Foodshare. They will spread the word and get a poster out to publicize our community meal for members in town that would most benefit.

We can use your help:

- Can you inquire about donations from places you shop? Things such as desserts, breads, or other items suitable for a pasta dinner would really help.
- Do you like to bake? Homemade desserts are great!
- Sturdy disposable plates and silverware will make clean-up a breeze. These would be gratefully appreciated. Stores may donate if asked.
- Do you know someone who is alone and would enjoy being invited to a meal? We will have fellowship and music and sure to have laughter, too. Please invite that person to **Zachary's Table** at St. Paul's.
- We will offer to pick people up if transportation is needed. Would you be able to provide a ride to someone?
- Putting on a meal will require setting up, cooking, serving, being present to socialize with our guests* and of course, clean up. What part of this can YOU help with? Families with children especially welcome to assist.
- *It would be wonderful if our members of St. Paul's could also sit and break bread with our guests (if room permits, of course!)

If you can help out with this meal or any meal in the future, please call or email Russ & Patty Bengtson 860-721-9080 rbengt@sbcglobal.net Thank you!!

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. —James 2:26

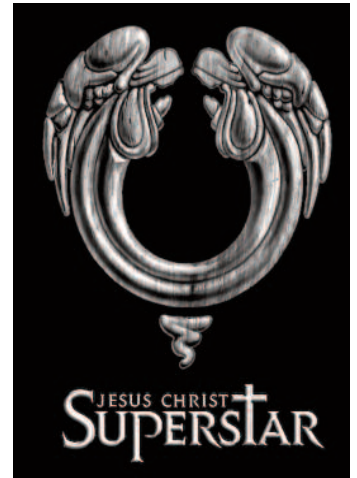
etcetera...

"JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR" AT TRINITY ON MAIN, NEW BRITAIN

Our own Jenn Lohmann has a lead role!

Jesus Christ Superstar is a 1970s rock opera or rock musical, with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice.

The musical started as a rock opera concept album before its first staging on Broadway in 1971. The musical is loosely based on the Gospels' accounts of the last week of Jesus' life, beginning with the preparation for the arrival of Jesus and his disciples in Jerusalem and ending with the crucifixion. It highlights political and interpersonal struggles between Judas Iscariot and Jesus that are not in the Bible narratives. The work's depiction offers a free interpretation of the psychology of Jesus and the other characters. A large part of the plot focuses on the character of Judas, who is depicted as a tragic figure dissatisfied with the direction in which Jesus steers his disciples. Contemporary attitudes and sensibilities, as well as slang, pervade the lyrics, and ironic allusions to modern life are scattered throughout the depiction of political events. Stage and film productions accordingly feature many intentional anachronisms.



Phoenix Theater Company

presents

Jesus Christ Superstar

May 22 - June 7

with Friday and Saturday shows at 8:00pm

and Sunday shows at 3:00pm

at

Trinity on Main

69 Main St.

New Britain, CT.

Tickets may be purchased by calling the theater 860-229-2072 or online at:

<http://thunder-and-lighting.ticketleap.com/jesus-christ-superstar-at-trinity-on-main>

Look for special deals on Groupon and Living Social as well. Hope to see you there!

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

On Sunday, May 3 and again on Sunday, May 17, Pastor Hugh will offer a series of New Member Classes for those who would like to explore what we believe as a community of faith.

While there is no obligation to “join” St. Paul’s after having taken these classes, they will provide opportunity to explore each person’s relationship with God and how that might be supported within this community.

Each class will last approximately 1 hour. While it is intended that participants attend both classes, arrangements can be made for those who are not able to do so.

St. Paul’s will be formally welcoming any new members on Pentecost Sunday, May 24, during the 10:30 service.



ST. PAUL’S GIVING TREE

For the month of May our focus is on our youth. There are two upcoming activities that need our support.

St. Paul’s Vacation Bible Camp will take place this year from June 22nd-June 25th. This experience has always been well attended by the youth of our congregation.

The ELCA National Youth Gathering will take place in Detroit this summer. This year, Cameron and Celia Cheyney will represent St. Paul’s at this youth event on July 15 – July 19th.

In the past, we have been able to support these activities through budget, fundraisers and donated funds.

Please support these youth happenings by using the envelopes in the pews or those hanging near the Giving Tree in the Fellowship Hall to make your donation. Thanks!

CHURCH CHAPTERS

Tuesday, May 12th



This month we will be reading another book by Wethersfield author F. Mark Granato. Mark’s newest book is *The Day Hartford Hospital Burned*. It tells the story of the 1961 fire that raged through Hartford Hospital and its aftermath affecting families and firefighters.

We hope that many of you may find this local story written by a local author one you will want to read and learn more about. Books are available to be shared – please contact me and I will be sure to get you a copy. Thanks to Carole Hughes for providing these books for all of us to read.

Our May meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12th at 6:30 at Sue Agne’s home. We will also be choosing books for next year: please bring along any title suggestions we can add to our list!

Join us! Any suggestions or questions, please call Sue Agne (860-563-0776).

MONTHLY EPISTLE SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month.

We prefer typed submissions that can be emailed to us, however you can leave submissions in the office with Office Manager Karen Landry.

If you are including a photograph with your submission please provide a JPEG file that is separate from your typed article.

If you are emailing your submission, please send to both addresses below:

Karen Landry at Karen@stpaulswethersfield.org

Aileen Casey at aileen@aileendesigns.com

St. Paul's MEMBERS IN SERVICE for MAY 2015

ACOLYTES:

May 3 - Need
10 - Evan Bernard
17 - Celia Cheyney
24 - Need
31 - Bryce Gentino

ALTAR GUILD:

Debbie Howe, Coordinator, 860-529-8583

May 3 - Tracy Newmark & Patty Bengtson
10 - Debbie Howe & Mary Ann Mead
17 - Jennie Dotts & Debbie Howe
24 - Bob Bowman & Bill Fischer, Jr.
31 - Winnie Sawrun & Anne French

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

May 3 - Patty Bengtson8:00AM
3 - Kathy Coyle10:30AM
10 - Art Bruce8:00AM
Mike Coyle10:30AM
17 - Debbie Viola8:00AM
Jerry Vaillancourt.....10:30AM
24 - Jim Newmark.....8:00AM
Will Fischer, Jr.....10:30AM
31 - Art Bruce8:00AM
Patty Bengtson10:30AM

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Sue Agne, Coordinator, 860-563-0776

May 3 - Lillian Doerschler
10 - Joan Kratzer
17 - Patty Bengtson
24 - Lillian Doerschler
31 - Sue Agne

TAPING MINISTRY:

Jan Pergande, Coordinator, 860-644-2888

May - Russ & Patty Bengtson

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:

Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 860-529-7588

May 3 - Heidi Boutin & Winnie Sawrun
10 - Patty & Russ Bengtson
17 - Leann & Andy Power
24 - George & Deb Howe
31 - Winnie Sawrun

FINANCE:

Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 860-257-4793

May 3 - Mike Coyle
10 - George Howe
17 - Debbie Viola
24 - Heather Christensen
31 - Mike Coyle

READERS:

Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 860-529-1939

May 3 - Winnie Sawrun
10 - Joan Kratzer
17 - Carol Bruce
24 - Lillian Doerschler
31 - Jeanette Serafine

USHERS:

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

May - Brian Beckwith

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

May 3 - Dave Bayek & Bill Fischer, Sr.
10 - Dave Bayek & Bill Fischer, Sr.
17 - Dave Bayek & Bill Caughman
24 - Dave Bayek & Bill Caughman
31 - Dave Bayek & Bill Caughman

MAY 2015 | EVENT CALENDAR

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| <p>Highlights for May: Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering @ Christ the King Lutheran Church, 465 Park Ave., Windsor, Saturday, May 2, from 8:45 am to 2:15 pm. Car Wash and Bake Sale, Saturday, May 2 from 9 am to 12 noon New Member Classes: Sundays, May 3 and 17, 12 noon (New members to be received May 24!)</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>3 5th Sunday of Easter Family Sunday: No SCS Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30 AM Outreach 12 PM Spring Cleaning 12 PM New Members' class 12 PM</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>6 AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM</p> | <p>7 Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM</p> | <p>8 AA 10:00 AM</p> | <p>9 Adult Fellowship: "Sweet Charity" 7:30 PM AA 7:30 PM</p> |
| <p>10 6th Sunday of Easter Mother's Day Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM</p> | <p>11 Cub Scout Meeting 6 PM</p> | <p>12 Church Chapters 6:30 PM</p> | <p>13 AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM</p> | <p>14 Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM</p> | <p>15 AA 10:00 AM</p> | <p>16 AA 7:30 PM</p> |
| <p>17 7th Sunday of Easter Last Day of Sunday School Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM New Members' class 12 PM</p> | <p>18</p> | <p>19 "Zachary's Table" Pasta Dinner 5 PM Worship & Music 7 PM</p> | <p>20 AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM</p> | <p>21 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM</p> | <p>22 AA 10:00 AM</p> | <p>23 AA 7:30 PM</p> |
| <p>24 Pentecost Sunday New Members Received Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30 AM Holiday Fair Planning Meeting 9:00 AM</p> | <p>25 Memorial Day Office Closed</p> | <p>26 Parish Admin. 6:30 PM Ch. Council 7:30 PM</p> | <p>27 AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM</p> | <p>28 Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM</p> | <p>29 AA 10:00 AM</p> | <p>30 AA 7:30 PM</p> |
| <p>31 Holy Trinity Sunday Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30 AM</p> | <p>Adult Fellowship: Sweet Charity, Greater Hartford Academy of Arts, Saturday, May 9, 7:30 pm "Zachary's Table" Community Pasta Dinner, Tuesday, May 19, 5 PM</p> | | | | | |

SAINT PAUL'S EPISTLE

Saint Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church

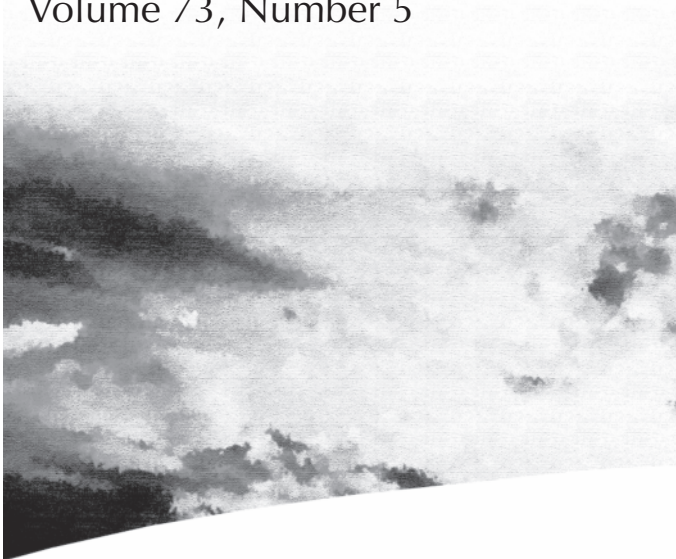
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