

June 2015

Volume 73, Number 6

SAINT PAUL'S EPISTLE



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Cathy Evans

SUMMER: A TIME FOR HOLY REST

There is a tradition found in the Old Testament that makes it clear that taking regular time off from work is not a luxury, as we have come to see it, but a necessity, even a *command* by God. In the Bible it is known as the Sabbath.

In Genesis 1 we find God creating the universe in 6 (*not 7*) days, and *resting* from the work of creation on the seventh. Among the Ten Commandments is: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." (Exodus 20:8) This commanded "day of rest," which is the real meaning of sabbath (*shavath*, in Hebrew), is directly connected to the belief that God rested on the seventh day and *so should we*. By our observing the sabbath day we not only take care of ourselves, we honor God. (Ex. 20:11)

In addition to a sabbath day, in the Old Testament we find a sabbath year (a *shmita* in Hebrew) where the earth itself is allowed to rest and go fallow. All the fruit that would naturally grow during the *shmita* is for the needy first (so they, too, may eat). Anything left over is for the wild and animals. (Ex. 23:10-11)

It is natural for some to say that these sabbath rules are all from the Old Testament, and that since we are Christians, these Old Testament laws don't apply to us. To these I would reply, "True . . . *sort of*."

While certain dietary and ritual rules no longer apply (Lutherans worship on Sunday, the first day of the week, and not on Saturday, the seventh day), this doesn't mean that God's commandments are irrelevant. The commandments, such as the sabbath day ones, were instituted by God for our wellbeing, not to enslave us but to guide us toward the life we are called to live. When God calls us to rest, it is not to insist that we do so on a particular day, or in a particular way. We can get creative there. But resting from our labors is *good* for us. Sabbath also calls us to "unplug" from the distractions of our lives: shut off our "smart phones," disconnect from the Web, and put away all electronic devices. While Sabbath calls us to rest from our labors and the distractions of our lives, it doesn't mean we are to take a break from worship. It is in undistracted, holy rest that we are able to open ourselves up to God (in worship) and rediscover the holiness in every day life (through play).

May this summer provide all of us time for much needed (if not commanded) holy rest and renewal.

— Pastor Hugh Haffenreffer

WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

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

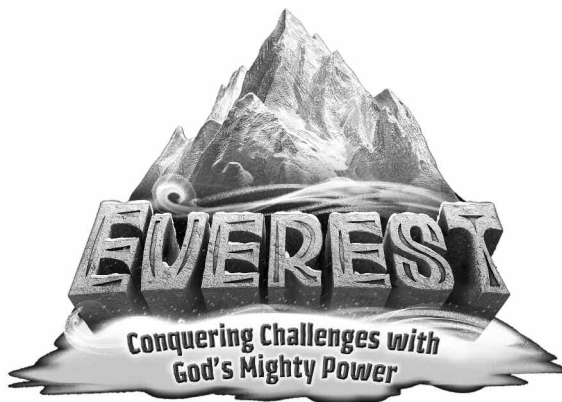
Summer Schedule starts June 21: Sundays at 9AM • Thursdays at 7PM

NEWS & NOTES



THANK YOU

To all who came out to do a Spring clean-up of the church grounds: Patti & Russ Bengtson, Lillian Doerschler, Chuck Dotts, William Fischer, Sr., Jan Pergande and Debbie Viola.



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 through Grade 5. Registration deadline is Sunday, June 7th. Registration forms are available in Fellowship Hall.

Older children can volunteer as group

leaders! Volunteers of all ages are needed for the decorating committee, making food and helping the week of camp!

See the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall or contact Missy Cheyney or Julie Perry.

ZACHARY'S TABLE

Our first community dinner, Zachary's Table, was an inspiring success. All who attended had a great time. We had about 10 visitors that were either from the neighborhood or invited by members. About 20 from St. Paul's shared in the meal, making up a good sized crowd. Zachary, appropriately, started the meal with grace.



The meal served to our guests consisted of bread, salad, pasta and sauce, and dessert. The initial cost of the meal was covered by the Outreach Committee with help from Stop & Shop and PriceRite. We have received some contributions towards our next meal on June 16th which will cover a good portion of our expenses. We have contacted other area businesses that we hope will also donate to this event in the future.



Our next step is to put out even more publicity. This involves flyers, advertising, door hangers, and word of mouth. We need to keep momentum going and we can use everyone's

SUMMER SCRIP ORDERING

Scrip orders will be placed the first Sunday of June, July, and August. Don't miss your chance to place your order on June 7th, July 5th, and August 2nd.

In September the regular Scrip ordering will resume.

Thanks,
The Outreach Committee

A THANK YOU NOTE FROM HELEN PETERSON

I want to thank all my church family for all the wonderful greetings I got on my 90th Birthday.

I want to especially thank Patty Bengtson for the delicious cake she baked for Mother's Day.

I love you all,
Helen Peterson

NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Kathy Coyle will be starting a Women's Bible Study (sorry men) at her home on Friday, June 12th at 2PM. This will be a Bible Study using reading/listening, pondering, and responding. It is very personally & spiritually based. **No knowledge of the scriptures needed.** Please join us for this time to deepen or find your faith.

Call Kathy Coyle if you can come, 860-529-5983

help in doing so. Please, spread the word.

A big thank you to all who helped make this first meal a success. This is what we are called to do.

— *Your Outreach Committee*

etcetera...

KIDS HELPING KIDS



Did you know that some children depend on the school meals they receive as their main source of daily food intake and that during the summer months, when school is on break, some families struggle to provide 3 meals a day? Our Sunday School children are well aware of this problem and they want to do something to help out these kids and their families this summer!

During the months of June, July and August, our children will be collecting food items from family members, friends, neighbors and our church family. Donations may be placed in the collection box in Fellowship Hall. Approximately every three weeks, the donations will be delivered to Wethersfield Social Services Food Bank.

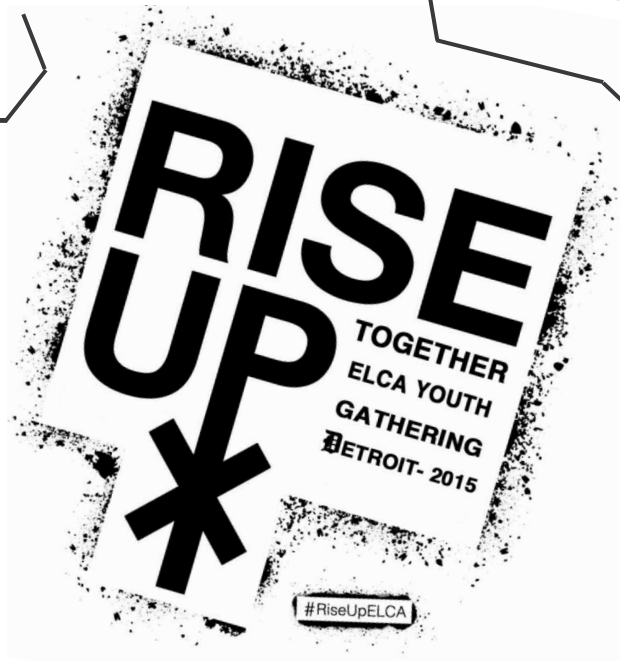
Monetary and grocery store gift card donations are also appreciated. Please see Cathy Evans with any questions.

WE WELCOME SALEM 7TH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Back in April, St. Paul's received a phone call from Gustave (Gus) Lescouflair, 1st Elder of Salem 7th Day Adventist Church. Gus explained that Salem is a mission congregation made up of mostly 7th Day Adventists of Caribbean descent who are seeking to develop a new congregation in the south end of Hartford. They were looking for a place to gather on Saturdays for the next 6 months. After many conversations with Gus, and after having discussed this at Council, we felt that renting our facility on Saturdays was the right thing to do. It was explained that if we needed to use the sanctuary on a Saturday for a wedding or funeral or other event, the people of Salem could accommodate our needs.

Starting on June 6, Salem Church will be renting our sanctuary (for worship and education) and the lower level of the PE Building (for a community meal) each Saturday. They will be here from 9 am and will stay until sunset. (7th Day Adventists worship on the sabbath, which goes from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset.)

We look forward to where Christ is leading both of our communities. Welcome Salem!



ELCA YOUTH GATHERING
JULY 15-19, 2015
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

YOUTH FUNDRAISER

STOCKS will be going on sale:

Watch for stock sales on Sundays after the church services. Stocks will be sold for \$20.00 a share and will entitle the stockholders to a Brunch with stories from the event.

Stock sale dates will be:

June 7th
14th
21st
28th

All proceeds will benefit the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering trip to Detroit, Michigan in July.

ST. PAUL'S GIVING TREE

For the month of June our focus is on the Synod Assembly expenses (we will be sending two voting members along with Pastor Hugh!), and other general expenses as needed.

Please help send our voting members to the Synod Assembly by using the envelopes in the pews or those hanging near the Giving Tree in the Fellowship Hall to make your donation. Thanks!



MONTHLY EPISTLE SUBMISSIONS

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

We prefer typed submissions that can be emailed to us. You can, however, 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

Note: For July and August, the *Epistle* will be combined into one issue. The deadline will be June 15. The next submission deadline will be August 15 for the September *Epistle*.

St. Paul's MEMBERS IN SERVICE for June 2015

ACOLYTES:

June 7 - Brayson Bernard.....10:30AM
14 - Colin Grottke.....10:30AM
21 - Needed.....9:00AM
28 - Breen Bernard.....9:00AM

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:

Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 860-529-7588

June 7 - Jackie Fischer & Carol Hopkins
14 - Pam Speno & Lillian Doerschler
21 - Debbie & George Howe
28 - Mary Procyk

ALTAR GUILD:

Debbie Howe, Coordinator, 860-529-8583

June 7 - Tracy Newmark & Mary Procyk
14 - Patty Bengtson
21 - Jennie Dotts & Debbie Howe
28 - Bob Bowman & Bill Fischer, Jr.

FINANCE:

Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 860-257-4793

June 7 - Helen Peterson
14 - Lillian Doerschler
21 - Kathy DiMartino
28 - Linda Johnston

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

June 7 - Debbie Viola.....8:00AM
Kathy Coyle.....10:30AM
14 - Jim Newmark.....8:00AM
Mike Coyle.....10:30AM
21 - Mary Procyk.....9:00AM
28 - William Fischer, Jr.....9:00AM

READERS:

Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 860-529-1939

June 7 - Sue Agne
14 - Dave Bayek
21 - Lillian Doerschler
28 - William Fischer, Jr

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Sue Agne, Coordinator, 860-563-0776

June 7 - Walter Rupp
14 - Curt Leonard
21 - Carole Hughes
28 - Mary Procyk

USHERS:

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

June - Brian Beckwith (through June 14)

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

June - Bill Fischer, Sr. & Walter Rupp

TAPING MINISTRY:

Jan Pergande, Coordinator, 860-644-2888

June - Jan Pergande

Please note:

Our Summer Worship schedule begins on June 21 with one Service at 9:00AM.

JUNE 2015 | EVENT CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	4 Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Weight Loss Group 7 PM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM	5 AA 10:00 AM	6 Salem Church 9 AM - 5 PM AA 7:30 PM
7 Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30 AM Special Congregational Meeting 12 PM Outreach 12 PM Vacation Bible Camp Registration Deadline	8 Cub Scouts 6 PM	9	10 AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	11 Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Weight Loss Group 7 PM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM	12 AA 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 2 PM	13 Salem Church 9 AM - 5 PM AA 7:30 PM
14 Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30 AM Vacation Bible Camp Registration Setup	15 Deadline for the July/Aug issue of the Epistle	16 Zachary's Table Pasta Dinner 5 PM	17 AA 10 AM AA 7 PM	18 Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Weight Loss Group 7 PM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM	19 AA 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 2 PM	20 Salem Church 9 AM - 5 PM AA 7:30 PM
21 Father's Day Summer Worship Schedule Begins Today! Summer Worship 9:00 AM	22 Vac. Bible Camp 5:30 PM	23 Vac. Bible Camp 5:30 PM Parish Admin. 6:30 PM Church Council 7:30 PM	24 AA 10 AM Vac. Bible Camp 5:30 PM AA 7 PM	25 Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Vac. Bible Camp 5:30 PM Weight Loss Group 7 PM Thurs. Night Worship 7 PM	26 AA 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 2 PM	27 Salem Church 9 AM - 5 PM McDonalds Wednesday 2 PM AA 7:30 PM
28 Summer Worship 9:00 AM	29	30	Tuesday, June 16: "Zachary's Table" Community Pasta Dinner, 5 PM Vacation Bible Camp: Sunday, June 7 — Registration deadline Sunday, June 14 — Setup 12PM - 4PM Monday, June 22nd — Thursday, June 25th — Camp 5:30PM - 8PM			

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