



**“ST. PAUL’S IS A FAMILY OF BELIEVERS IN THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST, COMMITTED TO THE FULFILLMENT OF THE WORD OF GOD”**

**Church Office....570-474-6616**

**Pastor - Rev. Michele Kaufman**

**Home: 570-443-0832 Cell: 570-881-2371**

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**Secretary - Kelly Smolenak Phone: 570-474-6616**

**Email: [info@stpaulsmttop.com](mailto:info@stpaulsmttop.com)**

**Office Hours**

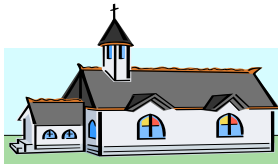
**Wednesday’s from 3:00-7:00 pm**

**Sexton – Kim Schuler – 570-332-8013**



**Like us on  
Facebook**

**We are on Facebook! Visit us at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Mountain Top, PA and keep in touch with upcoming events.**



**Our Sunday Service Schedule:**  
**9:00 AM & 11:00 AM outdoors (Drive-in)**

Pastor has been posting services from St. John's Nanticoke on our Facebook page for those who cannot attend in person. Same pastor, similar service, same sermon, different sanctuary. We are looking to split those services between St. John's and St. Paul's in the future. Recorded services are available on our Facebook page & website [www.stpaulsmttop.com](http://www.stpaulsmttop.com)



**Every Sunday we will have communion offered in the bags we hand out to the congregation.**

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**As Holy Week falls on the first week of April, our monthly Healing service will be held on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.**

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***Pastor's Message***

The events that recently took place in Atlanta, the killing of 8 innocent people was heartbreaking. It points to a nationwide crisis, a pandemic of prejudice and racism that has exploded in the wake of Covid-19. Violence against Asian-Americans is on the rise, but racism isn't new. Violence, hatred and bigotry - in word and action against Asian

American and Pacific Islander individuals must end. It must be opposed at all times and at every level.

In truth, verbal assaults and physical attacks against Asian Americans and their businesses being vandalized is not new, but those crimes are not often given the same attention as assaults on other minority groups. Part of what has caused this spike in anti-Asian bias incidents is bigoted and hateful rhetoric that blames China and by association Chinese Americans for the COVID-19 pandemic. Seriously? Are we that naïve? Sadly, an article published by PBS traces a sordid tale throughout U.S. history in regards to our deplorable treatment of Asian Americans over time.

It seems that whenever there are problems in American society, political or economic, there always seems to be the need for a scapegoat -- someone or a group of people who is/are singled out, unjustifiably blamed, and targeted with severe hostility. Combined with the cultural stereotype of Asian Americans as quiet, weak, and powerless, more and more Asian Americans are victimized, solely on the basis of being an Asian American.

In early 2020, reports started circulating about a new infectious respiratory disease that seems to have originated in Wuhan, China. Coronavirus or COVID-19 became a pandemic that has spread around the world. The COVID-19 pandemic has also resulted in widespread racist and xenophobic rhetoric, such as using terms like "Chinese virus," "Wuhan virus," or "Kung-flu", along with mis/disinformation, and conspiracy theories spread through various media outlets. In turn, these have led to suspicion, hostility, hate, and even violence against anyone perceived to be Chinese or more generally, Asian, Pacific Islander and/or Asian American.

What can we do to change the course of history as well as our own behavior and attitudes? Educate yourself and examine your life. Learn about the mistreatment of Asians

and Asian Americans in U.S. history. Take a good look at your circle of friends and what you read. Do you have a good way to tap people and ideas that differ from how you identify and what you feel comfortable with? Have you examined stereotypes you hold about people of other races? Jesus calls us to accept all people for who they are.

Then, be an ally and speak out! Not just for Asians who are hurting, but for other groups in pain. This is not a contest about which racial group has it worst. We all should be fighting for a world full of grace. Donate to causes, if you have the means. Or read about organizations that are helping to stop the hate. There are many articles you can find through a simple search for “how to help Asians.” We all need to learn how we can be part of the solution rather than part of the problem and how we can be a source of healing and wholeness to all those in need.

Recently I saw a post on Facebook written by a beautiful young Korean born American woman who was raised in this congregation. I was pained to hear her experience. I asked Grace if I could share her experience and reflections with you. I wish I could take away her pain, but what we can do is examine our own hearts and ask ourselves how can we be advocates for all God’s children.

Hear Grace’s story...

People keep asking me how I’m doing with the rise in Asian targeted hate crimes. I keep saying that I’m okay. I sat on the question the other night and I’m actually not okay. I’m emotional and I’m processing everything. It’s sad because a part of me hopes that my future children look more like Adam and less like me for fears of bullying and harassment. Even

just for a moment, that thought has crossed my mind. It's so hard to be proud of yourself when you're fearful.

Reflecting on my life, I can't even tell you the amount of micro aggressions and racial remarks I received growing up, including the ESL teacher who called my mom asking when she was going to sign me up for English lessons.. just because I was Korean by birth. I used to brush it off, even laugh. What else was I supposed to do? Everyone's white and I'm not. I tried so hard to be someone that I wasn't. I will note that at that time, I didn't view it as that and I'm sure the people saying it didn't either. These were my friends. And I hope since then, they've learned.

People asking if I see "wide screen or full screen". People pulling their eyes to make them look slanted (INCLUDING THAT FOX EYE TREND KNOCK IT OFF). I've been fetishized my whole life simply because I'm "exotic"; high school, college, even now probably. Know that I can take a joke, but the events that are going on right now are real. The build up of anger and sadness inside me HURTS. When COVID-19 first hit, I was harassed at the mall while shopping by myself. Two males approached me and started coughing yelling "yo she's got the corona." "She got the kung flu". No one. Not a single fucking person said anything until I turned around and snapped. I remember getting into my car after safely being escorted by the police and just sobbing. I had no idea what just happened.

I am not a gook. I am not a chink. I am not your China virus or kung flu. My name is Grace and I am a very strong Korean American woman. My parents raised me to be resilient and to stand up for others and myself; be a decent human being. Protect myself and others. I want people to read this. I want people to feel what I've been through. I want people to change for the better.

Grace Emmett



***We will continue to monitor the progress of active cases and Covid vaccines before we make any decisions about returning to indoor worship to ensure the safety and well- being of our congregational members.***

***Please note the following dates for Holy Week:***

***-Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021, 11:00 AM & 7 PM***

***-Good Friday: April 2, 2021***

***The Way of the Cross 12:00 PM***

***Tenebrae 7:00 PM***

***-Easter Vigil (St. John's, Nanticoke)***

***April 3, 2021, 6:30 PM***

***-Easter Services: April 4, 2021,***

***Easter Dawn 8:00 AM (indoor)***

***9:30 AM & 11 AM (outdoor)***



***CELEBRATE EASTER &  
SHARE THE JOY!***

**We would like to prepare Easter baskets for all the young people who attend services on Easter Sunday.**

**We are looking for candies, snacks, small goodies.**

**There is a collection container in the narthex. Items should be received by Good Friday, April 2.**

**Thank you in advance!**



## **MOVIE NIGHT**

**Join us on Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 for our monthly movie, *OVERCOMER*. A movie that may interest persons of all ages!**



**Life changes overnight for Coach John Harrison when his high school basketball team and state championship dreams are crushed under the weight of unexpected news. When the largest manufacturing plant shuts down and hundreds of families leave their town, John questions how he and his family will face an uncertain future. After reluctantly agreeing to coach cross-country, John and his wife, Amy, meet an aspiring athlete who's pushing her limits on a journey toward discovery. Inspired by the words and prayers of a new-found friend, John becomes the least likely coach helping the least likely runner attempt the impossible in the biggest race of the year.**

**“Love is generosity in abundance”**



**Thank you to all those who contributed to the Smith family to help following the fire that not only destroyed their home but took the life of Gracie, a vivacious 13 yr old.**

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Join the Bear Creek Camp staff and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod for an open house day of fun at Bear Creek Camp! While following government guidelines for safe socializing, join us to explore camp, meet BCC staff, and fellowship with our camp community. At 1 p.m. we will have a Q & A about Bear Creek's Summer Camp and the ELCA Youth Gathering.

May Play Day Cost: Free!

Optional Lunch Available: \$10/person



The graphic features a light green background with a white floral flourish on the left and right sides of the title. The title 'May Play Day' is written in a teal, cursive font. Below the title, the date 'May 1st, 2021' is centered in a white, sans-serif font. The schedule is presented in a list format with teal time slots on the left and white descriptions on the right.

**May Play Day**  
May 1st, 2021

<b>10am - 12pm</b>	-Boating at Lake -Nature Center open -Rec Hall is open for Carpet ball, Ping Pong, and Foosball -Campfire in Birchfield
<b>12pm</b>	Lunch in Dining Hall  Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, and Veggie Burgers available with sides and drink
<b>1pm</b>	-Q&A about BCC Summer Camp and ELCA Youth Gathering
<b>1:30pm-3pm</b>	- Boating at the Lake - Arts n Crafts in Pavilion -Rec Hall is open for Carpet ball, Ping Pong, and Foosball -Guided Nature Hike - Camp store open - Fire in birch field
<b>3pm</b>	Closing Words and Songs

## **A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**

**It has been over a year since the onset of COVID 19 and during that year we have lost numerous individuals to the virus. We would like to gather and remember all those who have died as a result of this pandemic. On Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will hold a Service of Remembrance at 3:00 p.m. to gather as people of faith and remember those who have fallen victim to Covid 19. We urge you to invite your family and friends to submit names of loved ones and invite them to join us for this service of remembrance. This is meant to be service that draws us together as community.**

**\*Please contact the church office and add the names of family and friends who you wish to be remembered.**

### **March 2021 Church Council Highlights**

The council meeting was held on Sunday March 21<sup>st</sup>.

- Monk Heating will be at the church on Monday 3/29 to repair the heater in the music room (warranty).
- St. Jude's church completed a food drive in support of the food bank.
- The financial audit was completed. No issues were found.
- Items that have been collected for Michalene's Mission will be delivered Saturday 3/27.
- Pastor to apply for a Daily Food Grant to possibly assist Backpack Program.
- A Thrivent Grant has been approved to help offset the cost of the Maundy Thursday dinner.
- Stubb's Landscaping was approved to clean and mulch the flower beds. Work was completed 3/25.

- The church band will perform 4/11, 6/27, 8/15, 9/26, 11/7, 12/12, 12/19 & 12/24
- Our next council meeting will be held on Sunday April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Kevin Scott  
Council President



**OUR NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Will be held on Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm**

**Thank you...**

**Thank you for your prayers, cards, and calls after my surgery! I appreciate them much! Thanks! Lois Scott**



**FOR THOSE WHO MAY BE INTERESTED IN JOINING ST. PAUL'S. PLEASE BE IN CONTACT WITH PR. KAUFMAN OR CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE TO FILL OUT THE NECESSARY FORMS.**

## Sunday School Update:

MARK KASTER IS HOLDING ZOOM MEETINGS ON SUNDAYS AT 1PM. IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFO ON THIS AND TO BE INCLUDED IN ZOOM MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT HIM VIA EMAIL: [MARK.KASTER@WILKES.EDU](mailto:MARK.KASTER@WILKES.EDU)

**White Haven Lions**  
Annual  
**Spaghetti Supper**  
Monday, April 19, 2021  
3:30pm to 7:00 pm  
Drive-thru Take-out only  
Adults \$8.00 - Children under 12 \$4.00  
St. Patrick's Church Parish Center  
411 Allegheny Street  
Tickets available from Lions Members, at the door, or contact our Facebook page at facebook.com/whitehavenlions2015

***Pastor Wayne is the chief cook for this event! See Pastor Michele if you are interested in tickets. All monies raised support local charities.***

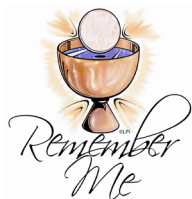


April 4<sup>th</sup> Lois Scott  
April 11<sup>th</sup> Linda Delong  
April 18<sup>th</sup> Lois Scott  
April 25<sup>th</sup> The Doxsey's

Flowers can be ordered if there are openings on the Flower Chart. The cost is \$32.  
\*If you have a specific Sunday you're interested in, please call the church & leave a message for Secretary, or email [info@stpaulsmttop.com](mailto:info@stpaulsmttop.com)



Our April Hostess will be Judy Getz  
The meeting will be April 14<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 1pm  
Please bring coupons and scissors.



### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES

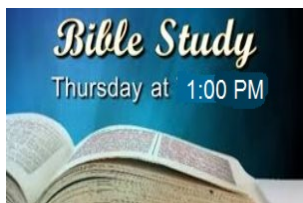
Classes will be held for those in 2nd grade or older who have yet to receive instruction for 1st Holy Communion.  
More info to come.



## BEAR CREEK SUMMER CAMP 2021:

-Online registration for Summer Camp 2021 is open now! Over 200 campers have already registered and you don't want to miss out! Everyone who registers before April 1st will receive an EXCLUSIVE BCC Early Bird T-Shirt when they get to camp.

<https://bearcreekcamp.campbrainregistration.com/>



### Who ever thought Bible Study could be fun???

This is Bible Study like you've never experienced! No homework, no tests, no previous knowledge. Have some

fun with learning; only 2 hours a week with a knowledgeable teacher. Snacks provided! Come join in on the fun in our bible study group. Everyone is welcome! Thursdays at 1pm...We enjoy each other's company and great conversation. We will hold Bible Study in the Parish Hall at 1:00 p.m. Tables have been set up to allow for participants to "social distance."

### Bible Trivia: How well do you know your bible?

(read Philippians 4:1-14)

1. What two women did Paul plead with to reconcile with each other?
2. What does Philippians 4:4 say we should do always?
3. What does Paul say will guard our hearts and minds?
4. What has Paul learned to be in any circumstance?

5. Paul said he could do all things through God who gives him what?

(Answers are on the last page of the Newsletter)




Get your submissions into Kelly by April 17<sup>th</sup>. You can leave your information in her mailbox, call her at the office or email her at [info@stpaulsmttop.com](mailto:info@stpaulsmttop.com)

## Coming up...

The NEPA Synod is hosting a virtual conference on May 22 titled: Trouble the Water: Racial Justice and Reconciliation. The conference will include worship, keynote speaker Reverend Cecee Mills, and afternoon workshops. The goal of the conferences is to provide information and raise awareness among members of the synod about racial justice concerns and to learn more about how to make our congregations more welcoming and open.

More details to come...



# TROUBLE THE WATER RACIAL JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION

*A virtual conference you won't want to miss*

**SAVE THE DATE**

*May 22, 2021*

**FEATURED SPEAKERS:  
THE REV. CECEE MILLS,  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**THE REV. MELISSA PORTMAN  
DR. HELEN DAVIS  
THE REV. MARSHA WILLIAMS  
THE REV. DR. JAMES THOMAS**

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION TO COME**

## **ALUMINUM CANS**

Please remember to deposit your aluminum cans in the bin behind the church. Monies collected from the sale go directly to where it's needed in our church.





## **YARN SPINNERS**

We are currently working on lap robes for St. Luke's Marjorie Lou Anthony will take them over to St. Luke's for distribution. We will continue to work on the prayer shawls and baptismal blankets for Pastor.



**COFFEE CANS FLOWERS** Please save your green plastic coffee cans (leave labels on) as we need these for the flowers that we use to take to the shut-ins. Please save them for now, and you can bring into the church once we can gather again inside.

**amazon**smile

**You shop. Amazon gives.**

Now you can support St. Paul's when you shop on Amazon!

Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and register!

We are listed as: St. Paul Lutheran Church (this is not a typo)

Mountain Top, PA

Any questions, please ask Pastor.

St. Paul's has received more than \$75 dollars!



## **FOOD BANK**

The Mountain Top Food Bank continues to distribute food to clients every Friday using safe distance practices. If you would like to drop off donations at the church, please do so on Fridays 9am-noon. Donations are always welcome, and appreciated.

ITEMS THEY CURRENTLY NEED ARE: Coffee, Peanut Butter, jelly, ketchup, dry soup, pudding, Jell-O mixes, popcorn, pork & beans, canned tomatoes, canned soup, mustard, mayonnaise, tuna, macaroni & cheese, pasta (ex. Spaghetti), peas, canned pasta, and noodles.



**A reminder we'd like your loose change!  
Clean out your pockets and check under  
your car seats! Please save your change  
and donate it for our Sunday school!**

### **SICK OR IN THE HOSPITAL?**

#### **WOULD YOU LIKE A VISIT FROM PASTOR?**

If you are in the hospital, please let us know. We care about you, and we would like to pray for you. If you would like Pastor to make a visit for any particular reason, please contact Pastor directly or leave a message with the church secretary and Pastor will contact you to schedule a time. **YOU ARE IMPORTANT TO US**, but we cannot address what we don't know.

**PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:** Austin Bowman, Lois Burge, Claire Daley, Jim Doxsey, Al Drum, Florence Drum, Jane Evans, Monica Hayward, Marion Hildebrand, Joyce Hocko,

Gaylene Hunter, Craig Jacobs, Alice Kershinski, Matthew Kostelec, Todd & Daphne Kretz, Andy Macko, Barbara Macko, Amy Maher, Dale Major, Jon Martineau, Andrea Martz, Dolores Marzocco, Wayne Mast, Mary Alice McCloskey, Shari Meister, Paulette Mirilovich, Cheryl Myers, Andrew Richner, Virginia (Ginger) Rinehimer, Steven Reeves, Michele Reed, Terry Renninger, Cathy Ruiten, Andrew Ruth, Dale Scott, Carl Schultz, Joe Seymour, Robert F. Shultz, Bonnie Tomcho, Matthew Walker, Tanyia Reeves-Wendel, Karen Wise, Audrey Wysowski, Marian Zawilski

**IN ADDITION TO THOSE HAVING HEALTH PROBLEMS WE ASK THAT YOU PRAY FOR ALL THE MEN, AND WOMEN WHO ARE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES.** Robert Figmic Jr., Matthew Hewson, Wayne Kaufman, Richard Mester, Patrick Murphy, Brandon Passman, Anthony Porrecha, Jr., Christian Yurkanin.



**April Birthdays**

Sam Hollock	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Lois Burge	4 <sup>th</sup>
JoAnne Pinko	7 <sup>th</sup>
Addyson Saunders	8 <sup>th</sup>
Emily Pinko	9 <sup>th</sup>
Jacob Peters	9 <sup>th</sup>
Heather Kisselewege	9 <sup>th</sup>
Renee Lacoste	10 <sup>th</sup>
Terry Scott	10 <sup>th</sup>
William Walser	11 <sup>th</sup>
Christopher Burke	14 <sup>th</sup>

Cecelia Cain	14 <sup>th</sup>
Lauren Arnold	15 <sup>th</sup>
John Hoops	16 <sup>th</sup>
Derwood Lynn	17 <sup>th</sup>
Breanna Nagle	19 <sup>th</sup>
Madison Weiss	20 <sup>th</sup>
Olivia Hassinger	21 <sup>st</sup>
Brendan Hunter	21 <sup>st</sup>
Samanta Becker	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Midge Oldziejewski	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Bill Hoops	24 <sup>th</sup>
Kristin Hoovler	24 <sup>th</sup>
Joel Weiss	27 <sup>th</sup>
Donald Gasper, Jr.	30 <sup>th</sup>

### **APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**

Laura Anderson & Mark Weibel	12 <sup>th</sup> /'85
Lois & Gene Burge	17 <sup>th</sup> /'65
JoAnne & Michael Pinko	20 <sup>th</sup> /'13
Sue & Bill Hoops	21 <sup>st</sup> /'85

Answers to Bible Trivia:

- 1. Euodia and Syntyche**
- 2. Rejoice in the Lord**
- 3. The Peace of God**
- 4. Content**
- 5. Strength**