



“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

Secretary - Kelly Smolenak Phone: 570-474-6616

Email: info@stpaulsmttop.com

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS FOR JULY

-Tues. July 2nd & Wed. July 3rd 8:30-1:30 pm (due to holiday)

-Week of July 8th Office Open Only on Friday July 12th

From 8:30 -1:30 pm (due to Secretary vacation)

-July 16-July 30th all hours will be Tues. & Thurs. 8:30-1:30 pm

Sexton – Kim Schuler – 570-332-8013



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



Worship Service

9:30 am



July 7th & 21st 2019



Our monthly Healing Service is scheduled for
Wednesday, July 3rd at 11:00 a.m.
with a potluck lunch following.



OUR NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:
Sunday August 11th 2019, no meeting in July

PASTOR'S NOTES

As we continue to hear various stories concerning those seeking asylum, I want you to know that our church is involved.

AMMPARO Migrant Children

“Dios es nuestro amparo y fortaleza,” (“God is our refuge and strength,”) – Psalm 46:1

AMMPARO is a holistic, whole church commitment by the ELCA, as a church in the world, to accompany children today and in the future.

The word “amparo” in Spanish means the protection of a living creature from suffering or damage. The ELCA’s strategy to Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) was envisioned after witnessing the plight of children who are forced to flee their communities because of complex and interrelated reasons, including chronic violence, poverty, environmental displacement and lack of opportunities in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.

Due to our connection to companion churches in the region, including companion synod relationships, and existing ministries in the U.S., the ELCA is well-positioned to help ensure that these vulnerable children are protected.

In a holistic, whole church response that connects international and US outcomes, the ELCA has developed this strategy based on the following commitments:

Uphold and guarantee basic human rights and safety of migrant children and their families;

Address the root causes of migration in countries from Central America's Northern Triangle and Mexico and the treatment of migrants in transit;

Work toward just and humane policies affecting migrants in and outside the U.S.; and

Engage as a church body with all of its companions, affiliates and partners to respond to the migration situation and its causes and to advocate for migrant children and their families.

As brothers and sisters in Christ, the ELCA is called to bear witness to the conditions affecting so many communities and to work to find solutions that will acknowledge the humanity in all of God's children. Join us in making a difference in the lives of vulnerable children and families.

Get involved

Pray for the safety of migrant children and families on the journey and for justice as they reach their destinations.

Become a Welcoming Congregation to accompany these children and families through their transition to life in the U.S. Link to resource. www.elca.org/Resources/AMMPARO

Advocate for justice for migrant children and families.



Join us on July 3rd as St. Paul's lawn turns into a perfect viewing place to watch the Wright Twp. Fireworks. It's a lot of fun! Fireworks begin at dusk!



INTO THE WILD
Monday, July 8th at 6:30 p.m.

It plays on the whole notion of an individual's role in society. Chris realizes by entering the wild that he is stripped of all the weight of the world and his problems, because in the wild, there is no structure; there are no rules, laws, authorities, etc. It was bliss-just him and nature. It allowed him to see the world in a whole new way, that maybe all these things that we believe are so important to us (i.e money, good career, going to college, buying a beautiful house,) the materialistic and worldly desires, aren't so important after all. It is all a distraction, an external one in which we ourselves can't really see the true meaning of life when we have all these distractions. By entering the wild with little to no protection he finds his true happiness within his strong relationship with nature. In the end he is at peace with himself (which can be argued), is all that is really needed to fulfill one's life.

4th Wednesday Surprise!

For some time now we have been discussing the possibility of venturing “off” the mountain to explore places unknown. Every 4th Wednesday, we will gather at St. Paul’s at 11:30 a.m. and head out for lunch to a “surprise” location. See you on July 24th. Anyone interested in joining us is welcome! Bring a friend!



SUMMER YOUTH EVENTS

After gathering information in regards to interest and availability, I have come up with the following dates...

1-Hickory Run- Tuesday, July 2nd (picnic lunch & swimming)

2-US Mint- Tuesday, July 10th (free admission)

3-Knoebels – Tuesday, July 16

(Sundown Special begins at 5) Basic \$24

Sundown w/ coasters \$29.50

Under 48” (Basic \$15.50 or w/ coasters \$19.50)

4-Penn’s Cave- Friday, July 19th

(Combo Cavern & Farm/Nature/Wildlife tour plus maze

(\$37 adult; \$20 youth)

5-The Turkey Hill Experience- Tuesday, July 23rd

(\$20 per person)

6-Bowling- Monday, August 5th

7-Eastern State Penitentiary – Tuesday, August 13th

(Group rates for 15- \$11 adults, \$8 (7-10)

8-Appalachian Brewing Company needs to be a Sunday

Afternoon- perhaps August 11th after church??)

Mark your calendars and let me know. Still working on dates for Harry Potter Coffee Shop, the Renaissance Fair and a ballgame. I would be happy to work in any additional activities of interest as time allows.

Vacation Bible School

TO MARS AND BEYOND...

***Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by His power at work within us.* Ephesians 3:20**

Youth from St. Paul's are invited to join youth and staff at St. John's, St. John's for this year's VBS program, To Mars and Beyond. Bible School is scheduled for the week of August 5-9 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Registration forms are located on the Narthex table.



OPERATION BACKPACK PROJECT

Starting school without the tools needed to succeed can put big obstacles in a developing child's way. New backpacks and supplies give children a sense of pride and excitement to go back to school. You can help. The Mission District will be offering filled backpacks to guidance counselors in local schools for needy children. We will be collecting various items to fill those bags. Needed items include: pencils, crayons, notebooks, large eraser, colored pencils, markers, packets of loose leaf paper, folders, rulers, pens, scissors, highlighters, pencil box and glue.

These items can be brought in and deposited in the Narthex.



- July 7th** Terry Scott
- July 14th** Ruth Gasper
- July 21st** Lois Scott
- July 28th** no flowers

There are several dates available to sponsor Altar Flowers, Bulletins and the Newsletter for 2019. Charts/sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board. Why not honor a loved one or a significant occasion by sponsoring these items?

Flowers: \$32/week Bulletins: \$10/week

MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE WORLD USAgain

Don't forget....USAgain is a non-for profit company with a triple bottom line: for people, for planet and for profit. In other words, we only do well by making a positive impact on our planet and the people who inhabit it. By partnering together, we help to make a positive impact worldwide on 3 different levels.

HOW IT WORKS

Go through your closet and bag up all clothing, shoes and household textiles like sheets, drapes, towels, etc. that you no longer use. They accept clothing, footwear, accessories and linens of all styles, sizes and colors. Use the bin behind the church. It's that simple!

June 9, 2019 Church Council Highlights

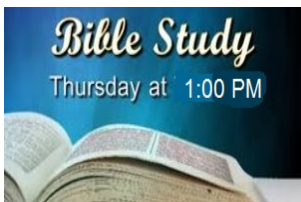
1. The church offices Summer hours on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm.
2. There will be one service on Sundays again this summer through Labor Day.
3. The Memorial Garden committee will meet with landscaping and masonry companies to discuss conceptual plans for the garden.
4. The Synod Assembly was held on Saturday, June 1st at Genetti's in Hazleton. Judy Seroska and Walt Robbins served as delegates. Thank you!
5. The Adult Choir has been reestablished and performed beautifully on Sunday, June 9th. We are always looking for more voices, so please contact Schyler if you are interested.
6. The Memorial Garden committee is raffling off a beautiful doll house, which is completely furnished. Tickets are \$3 each or 4 for \$10. The raffle will be held on July 3rd, just before the fireworks begin. All the proceeds will go towards the costs of developing the Memorial Garden. Internment of ashes in the garden will be completely free to church members.
7. Steve Perillo and the Followers will be playing at the July 21st service.
8. We are looking to either hire a painter or rent a lift, to paint the Bell Tower Cross which has become rusty.
9. A third speaker will be added to the rear of the Sanctuary within the next month.

10. We will hold a Fall Flea Market and Pizza Sale on Saturday, September 14th. A date for a Chicken Barbeque is still being discussed.
11. Price estimates for a replacement heater for the Play School room have been requested.
12. Future Council meetings for 2019 will be held on the following dates: August 11, September 8, October 13, November 11, and December 15th.

As always, all members are welcome to attend Church Council meetings. We look forward to hearing your ideas, questions, or feedback during our meetings or at any time.

Submitted by Jim Doxsey

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.

Bible Trivia: How well do you know your bible?

- 1-What article of clothing did Jesus say to give to someone if they sue you for your shirt?
- 2-What occupation did Jesus mention that loves those that love you?

3-What did Jesus warn us not to practice before men?

4-When we give to the needy, we should not announce it with what music instrument?

5-According to Jesus, in what two public places do hypocrites like to pray?

(For answers to the Bible Trivia, Read Matthew 5&6)

(Answers are on the last page of the Newsletter)



The Next WELCA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday July 10, 2019. Meet at the church at 12 pm. We will celebrate at Cracker Barrel for Christmas in July.



Seafarers International House
Seafarers International House transforms the lives of some 33,000 people each year. Imagine 25-year-old Filipina working as a seafarer on a containership, the only female member on her crew. The stormy Atlantic passage had been so dangerous that she prayed that they

would make it to port. Without a US visa, she was not allowed to leave the vessel. When SIH Port Chaplain Ruth visited her, as she caught up with her loved ones and found someone to confide in in Ruth.

We can transform the lives of seafarers and immigrants. Consider Contributing:

- \$25 to pay for a toiletries set for a asylee or AIM phone card for a lonely seafarer.

- \$200 to provide an asylee with food for a month or to help offset the costs of transporting seafarers to a clinic or mall.

- \$700 to pay for a chaplain to board ships for a week or to secure lodging for an asylee for a week.

Any amount you give will make a difference. A Donation jar can be found in the Narthex for the month of July. You can also give online to www.sihnyc.org

*DON'T MISS
THE DEADLINE!*

Get your submissions into Kelly by Thursday July 18, 2019. You can leave your information in her mailbox, call her at the office or email her at info@stpaulsmittop.com

THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS

Thrivent is a membership organization of Christians who want to be wise with money and live generously. Members are individuals who have invested in Thrivent's various financial products.

There are various benefits as a Thrivent member. One particular program involves Thrivent Action teams. Twice a year, members can apply for a \$250 grant to get a fundraiser, educational program or service project off the ground.

For those who are not invested in a Thrivent products are invited to consider an associate membership for \$20 per year. In return you are allowed to apply for ONE project per year for up to three years. Your

\$20 investment on behalf of the church would provide you with the opportunity to underwrite a church project for \$250!

Would you like to learn more? Are you already a Thrivent member?

How can you get involved? And if you aren't a member of Thrivent, would you consider investing on behalf of St. Paul's? Where does your passion lie? What a wonderful way to support various ministries within the church! Are you interested in learning more as to how you can help St. Paul's and "seed" new or existing projects? Contact Pastor for more info.

ALUMINUM CANS

Be contentious about the environment and make a positive impact by saving your aluminum cans. Aluminum cans can be deposited in the bin behind the church. Monies collected from the sale of the cans support our missionary in Tanzania.



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 bring into the church.



BOARD GAME DAY Every third Wednesday, at 1:00 pm. at the church will be board game day. Please bring your favorite game and a snack to share. Come on out and have some fun.



ST. PAUL'S HOAGIE GANG

THE HOAGIE GROUP NEEDS NEW VOLUNTEERS! IF YOU CAN HELP, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH SECRETARY FOR MORE INFORMATION 570-474-6616. MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!

Sign up for DELICIOUS hoagies! Watch for the sign-up sheet on the narthex bulletin board. All orders must be in by the previous Sunday, which in this case will be, **Sunday, July 14th with a pick up date of July 18th 2019.** The costs of the hoagies are **\$4.00 each.** The sign-up sheet is on the narthex bulletin board. Thank YOU! All monies earned go to benefit the church. They're available the **3rd Thursday of each month except December.**

MaineSource Giveback Program

The MaineSource GiveBack Program is a unique way of giving back to the community. It is a free year-round fundraising program with no selling involved.

Any time a member of the church swipes their GiveBack card, those purchases will count towards our church's cumulative total. Every purchase you make, from meat to produce and everything in between, counts towards our rebate. Pick up a form and return it to the church today. Thank you!

(Forms are on the table in the Narthex)

A Look Ahead...

AUGUST 18th 2019

**National Artist Ben Horrevoets performs at
St. Paul's 6:30 pm**



**FLEA MARKET September 14th 2019
at St. Paul's, 8-1pm**

***Tables available**

Please contact Lois Scott 570-239-7421



**Pizza Sale in conjunction with Flea Market on
Friday September 13th 6-8 pm & 14th 8-1 pm.**



**Thank you for praying for Georgina Becker, it
meant so much to her and our family. Please continue
to prayer for her.**

Thank you, Flossie Pedley & Georgina



FOOD BANK

Please remember that the first Sunday of each month has been declared "FOOD BANK DAY" and we ask that members remember those less fortunate by bringing non-perishable food items in order to keep up with the demand for food. OTHER 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, beets, boxed brownies, and cake mixes



A reminder we'd like your loose change!

Clean out your pockets and check under your car seats! Please donate your loose change 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: Ben Austin, Ed Balliet, Georgina Becker, DJ Bianco, Kari Stewart-Bonczewski, Austin Bowman, Hank Boyle, Sondra Brophy, Christopher Burge, Kevin Cadwalder, Betty Cauchi, Kim Collum, Jay Crandall, Claire Daley, Bill Dalon, Harlon Davis, Janice DeSino, Pauline Dennis, Brianne Dileo, Allen Drum, Carisa Drum, Carol Duffy, Bob Dunlap, Evelyn Evans, Lynne Fazio, Shirley Fetchko, Robert Ganski, Steven Ganski, Eileen Garinger, Robert Gasper, Joshua Hank, Cassandra

Hank, Marie Harding, Shawn Henning, Joyce Hocko, Amy & Baby Hunter, Craig Jacobs, Ruth Jakubowski, Charlie Johns, Gary Keller, Alice Kershinski, Plair Koch, Jeannine Ksiaskiewicz, Barbara Macko, Amy Maher, Dale and Roseann Major, Wayne Mast, Shari Meister, James Mendygral, Mary Alice McCloskey, McCale McQuire, Patty Mellow, Tony Mohl, Roberta and Jim Mohr, Sandy Morales, Cheryl Myers, Jilie O'Boyle, Irene Pritchard, Andrew Richner, Steven Reeves, Michele Reed, Teresa Renninger, Diane Rosa, Cathy Ruiten, Pam Sampolski, Dale Scott, Ken Scott, Lois Scott, Carl Schultz, Joe Seymour, Stephen Shaffer, Robert F. Shultz, Lisa Slocum, Barrett Smolenak, Leona Stemrich (Gerri Herron's Mother), Joanne Stevens, Ruth Thomas, Jason Ungarian, Matthew Walker, Jeanne Wallace, Pauline Weber, Marion Yuknavich, Steve Yodoff, Loretta Z

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. Matthew Hewson, Wayne Kaufman, Richard Mester, Patrick Murphy, Brandon Passman, Anthony Porrecha, Jr., Christian Yurkanin.



A reminder to all our newer families: Please remember to submit anniversary and a list of birthdays for members of your family so we as a church family can recognize these special occasions!



July Birthdays:

Bob Handlong	1st
Stephanie Scott	2nd
Michael Pinko	3rd
Susan Ackerman	3rd
Barrett Smolenak	4th

Craig Orlove	7th
Kirk Hassinger	9th
Wayne Kaufman	9th
Owen Firth	10th
Dale Fenstermacher	12th
Cheri Kolasensky	12th
Brian Moffit	13th
Jaclyn Arnold	13th
John Domzalski	13th
Chloe Lacoste	14th
Erin Cain	16th
Brooke Weiss	17th
Ella Russell	18th
Alexander Post	19th
Amanda Kaster	22nd
Emily Seroska	22nd
Kathy Lines	24th
Devin Mergo	25th
Leah Eyerman	26th
Alexandra Hoops	26th
Jillian Snyder	26th
Russ Michel	26th
Gaylene Hunter	27th
Larry Garinger	31st

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Elizabeth & Robert Handlong	1 st /'61
Florence & Al Drum	3 rd /'54
Karen & Michael Williams	5 th /'98
Colleen & David Drum	9 th /'83
Denise & Doug Nagle	9 th /'88
Debbie & Randy Arnold	14 th /'84
Peggy & John Mehalick	17 th /'82
Rita & Joe Lenahan, Jr.	20 th /'73

Allison & Ed Slavish
Bill & Nancy Eckhart

22nd/'95
24th/'65

Answers to the Bible Trivia

- 1) Coat
- 2) Tax Collectors
- 3) Our Act of Righteousness
- 4) Trumpets
- 5) Streets and Synagogues