



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE TRUMPET
May 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Day of Pentecost will soon be upon us. This means that we will once again focus our attention on the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Holy Trinity. It seems to me that of the three divine ways that God expresses who God is, the most mysterious and misunderstood is the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is sort of the forgotten person of the Trinity, seemingly not as important and certainly not as popular as God the Father, and God the Son. Most of us can remember from confirmation class that the first article of the Apostle's Creed deals with God as Creator, the second article deals with God as Redeemer (Jesus), and the third article deals with God as, well, have you forgotten? That's right, it begins with an "s." Sanctifier. The Holy Spirit is the Sanctifier, but what does that mean?

I think it's time to take out our Luther Small Catechisms and look again at the meaning of the third article of the Apostle's Creed. "I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him." Am I to understand that even with four years of seminary, countless hours of continuing education, and 42 years of parish ministry experience I cannot believe in Jesus Christ on my own, but only through the Holy Spirit can that happen? Well, yes. In fact, Luther says that it is the Holy Spirit that calls us through the gospel, enlightens us with gifts, and makes us holy. Makes us what, holy? Do we look holy? Do we act holy? Does the front page of the newspaper suggest that we are a holy people? No, I think we are a work *in progress*. We are being made holy. We are being sanctified by the Sanctifier, the Holy Spirit. Oh, this sanctification, this being made holy *is* not just for Lutherans, it is for the whole Christian church.

Here's what else the Spirit does for us. The Holy Spirit forgives our sins, and not just on high holy days, but every day. It's not only our sins that are forgiven, but the sins of others as well, even those who we think are worse sinners than we are.

Now comes the last part of the Holy Spirit's job description, and, in some ways for me, the best part. On the last day, that is on the day I die, the Holy Spirit will come for me and carry me to my eternal home. Again, the Holy Spirit is not selective, the Spirit will raise all those who have died, and will bring us all to live with Christ for all eternity. May we in faith then humbly declare that "this is most certainly true."

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Thomas A. Omholt

Saved by God's grace, and nourished through Word and Sacrament, we, the community of believers at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, are Sent by the Holy Spirit to Share the Good News and Serve our neighbors following the example of Jesus Christ. (St. Paul's Lutheran Church Mission Statement)

**Welcome to the St. Paul's Trumpet,
A publication of St. Paul's
Lutheran Church.**

Additional information is available on the church website at www.stpaulslutherandc.com. St. Paul's also publishes a weekly email update – E-news. If you would like to receive the weekly E-news, please contact Joy Belew (joyb@stpaulslutherandc.com)

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Prayer List



Please Keep In Your Prayers . . .

Lois Leland
Chuck Maata
Johanne Jackson
Grace Yin
Ron Rademacher
Barb Pitts
Ginger Lirardi
Miriam Burt
Carol Pihlstrom
Hal McNitt
Gloria Stuart
Engelhardt Unaeb
Karen Thoms
Deaconess Cassie Brown
John Hughes and his family
Deaconess Cassie Brown
Amelia Houghton
Jean Fetzer
Family & friends of Heather Jordan
upon her death

Christians and all people of faith who are
persecuted throughout the World.

HERE'S THE NEWS

News from the Capital Campaign

May 3, 2017

Dear church members,

Back in early March, I wrote the first communiqués to all of you regarding the capital campaign that was approved at January's congregational meeting. In the weeks since, the campaign committee—made up of myself, Gail Ferris, John Wannan, and Karen Ostergren, along with Pastor Omholt and Vicar Schaefer—has been busy. We met twice in April and have taken several important steps.

Most notably, we looked into services provided by two professional fund-raising organizations. We ultimately decided, with the approval of the church council, to retain the services of Kirby Smith Associates, which St. Paul's has worked with in the past. They are a company that delivers highly effective, spiritually based stewardship and fund-raising services to Christian churches, schools, and religious communities across the country. Our first meeting with our Kirby Smith representative was April 27, and we have a follow-up meeting scheduled for next Monday. At that meeting we plan to formalize the campaign theme and timeline, which will include a series of events during the summer, informative mailings, a website video, and outreach beyond the congregation, leading up to "commitment Sunday," to coincide with Rally Day on Sept 10th.

Also, a progress update on the HVAC system: The order for the main chiller has been placed. This is the unit that will cool the sanctuary. We expect it to be delivered,

installed, and operational no later than mid-July. The smaller, individual Daikin VRF units will be installed throughout the rest of the church proper—i.e., in the kitchen, the lower auditorium, the choir room, Schafer Hall, and the dining area—by then as well.

Thanks to everyone for the many great suggestions and comments we've received regarding ways to make the campaign successful. Please keep 'em coming.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Charlton, Campaign Chair
charlton46@aol.com , text or call 202-415 - 4347



Flower Donors Needed!

Please consider honoring or remembering that special person in your life by donating the altar

flowers on a Sunday. **Upcoming open dates are: May 21st, May 28th, June 4th, and June 11th.** The cost of the altar flowers is \$65.00 for the two arrangements. Please email or call the office to reserve a date. (joyb@stpaulslutherandc.com or 202-966-5489) Thank you.



Bible Study Resumes

Wednesday, May 17th @ 7 pm

Studying the scriptures is an excellent way to learn more about what the risen Christ is up to in the world and in our lives. St. Paul's weekly Bible study group will meet **Wednesday, May 17th at 7 pm in room 207.** All are welcome!



**St. Paul's
Scholarship Fund
Application Deadline
is May 15th.**

As you know, St. Paul's has a college scholarship fund and we are now accepting applications! So, if you have a daughter or son planning to enter college this fall, and are in need of financial assistance, we would like to hear from them by May 15th. Please have them contact Pastor Omholt in writing (by email or letter) stating briefly where they plan to attend school, when, and a brief reason why they need this scholarship. Your family financial data is not necessary, just basic reasons. Priority will be given to students beginning their first year but we may consider those starting their second, third or fourth year. Please contact Pastor Omholt if you have questions.
(tomholt@stpaulslutherandc.com).

**April's Weekly Quotes
from Martin Luther**



"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."

"I know not the way God leads me, but well do I know my Guide."

"I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess."

"The heart overflows with gladness, and leaps and dances for the joy it has found in God. In this experience the Holy Spirit is active, and has taught us in the flash of a moment the deep secret of joy. You will have as much joy and laughter in life as you have faith in God."

**St. Paul's Day at
Nationals Park
Friday, June 9th
@ 7:05 pm**



Baseball fans, it's that time of year again - there's nothing like a late spring evening game at the ballpark. The faithful Nats fans from St. Paul's will once again be assembling to cheer on the home team on Friday June 9, 7:05 p.m., this time in a rare inter-league game with the Texas Rangers, who have been leading the American League West for much of the spring. The cost for the tickets, which are in the third-base gallery under cover in case of rain, is \$20, same as last year. For further details and to reserve tickets, please contact Gail Ferris at gailferris@aya.yale.edu.



**Special Event
Wednesday, June 14th
Rick Steves'**

"Luther and the Reformation"

Join us Wednesday, June 14th, 2017, for a special evening about the Reformation. We will gather to watch a special screening of Rick Steves' "Luther and The Reformation". Steves is a guidebook author and the host of the popular travel show Rick Steves' Europe. **We will meet at 6:00 pm in the Dining Room for a light dinner, followed by the show in the lower Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm, and a short discussion to follow.** Please let Lisa Wackler know if you plan to attend, and if you need childcare.
(lwackler@stpaulslutherandc.com)

For more information about the show, go to Rick Steves' website: www.ricksteves.com



Prime Time Center



The Prime Time Center gathers every Wednesday between 11:00 am - 2:00 pm for fun and fellowship. St. Paul's Center continues to be blessed with a faithful ministry team who welcome the participants, spend time with them in conversation, and serves a wonderful hot luncheon to everyone. We welcome you to come and see this vibrant community and participate in any program that seems interesting to you. The programming begins with an entertainment, lecture, or information session from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm followed by a delicious hot lunch from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. Immediately after lunch the group participates in an active hour of exercise that is led by an excellent instructor who has become an important part of the PTC community.

May 10

Amb. Andrew Steigman
"Naples – Queen of the Mediterranean"

May 17

Activities-to-Go
"What's in a Name?"

May 24

Dr. Robert Jenner
"Philosophy of Confucius"

May 31

Jessie Palidosky - Guitarist

Stop by and join in the fellowship! Contact Deaconess Cassie with any questions (cbrown@stpaulslutherandc.com).



On Sunday, April 30, 2017, we gathered in Fellowship Hall following the 11 a.m. service to say farewell and Godspeed to our Music Director, Aline Otten. A light luncheon and cake accompanied a Program of Appreciation for her decade of service to our congregation. Unfortunately, we had to carry on without the guest of honor who was not feeling well enough to attend.

Aline has returned to life on the family farm that will include the care of her aging and ailing parents as she reestablishes herself in the local music and nursing scenes.

Many thanks to all who planned and assisted with the reception.

The search committee, chaired by Pam Wannan, has met and work has begun to fill the vacant position. For the remainder of the year that the choir sings, choir member and Worship Ministry Chair, Karen Leigh Campbell is overseeing the Music Program at St. Paul's. Stay tuned!



A message from Barb Pitts:

I've been a member of St. Paul's my entire life. If my name is familiar, it's because you pray for me every Sunday. As many of you know, I have a rare, unknown liver disease. Every year the American Liver Foundation (ALF) holds a walk to raise money for research. This year's walk will be held on Saturday, May 20th.

I've been sick since 1999, but things really fell apart the past 10 months. I am officially in end-stage liver disease and am awaiting a liver transplant, which will probably happen next year. I had a buildup of fluid in the abdomen that occurs as your liver becomes less productive. I also have enlarged veins in my esophagus that require monthly procedures at the hospital to "band" them and keep them under control. I take a lot of pills, but they help to keep my liver, kidneys and brain functioning. Who knew your liver affected so many parts of your body?

Any money you donate to the walk will help fund research that will help thousands of people like me. My goal is to raise at least \$2,500, but I'd love to go way over that amount! Any amount will help so much. If possible, please make your donation by May 20th. Just let me know if you need more time. If you want to use a credit card, simply go to my personal page on the ALF website by visiting the following link:

<https://liverlifewalk.org/dc/support/#barbpitts>

Just click on the green "Donate Now" in the middle of the page and follow the instructions.

If you'd prefer to make a donation by check you can give me it to me at church or send the check (payable to the American Liver Foundation or ALF) to me at:

3109 Winnett Road
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Thanks so much for your continued support. You can't imagine how much your love, friendship, and prayers mean to me. If you have any questions, please email me or call me at 301-652-3217. --Barb

Church Council

Council members welcome your calls at their home phone numbers.

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St. Paul's Podcasts are available online at
<https://soundcloud.com/stpaulsdc>

St. Paul's Monthly Newsletter, ***The Trumpet***
Managing Editor, Joy Belew

If you have information you wish to have included
in an issue, please send your submission to Joy by
the 20th of the month.
joyb@stpaulslutherandc.com



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