



**ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

THE TRUMPET

May 2016

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 a "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 to 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. Be sure to join us on Facebook.

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Prayer List



Please Keep In Your Prayers . . .

Charles Albert

Lois Leland

Donald Althouse

Ellen Saposnik

Barbara Miller

Jean Isley

Katherine Davis

Joseph Saccone

Miriam Burt

Ann Albert

Johanne Jackson

Scott Hickman

Helen Carabasi

Ralph Benson

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



Wednesday night Bible Study

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 resume meeting on Wednesday, April 20th at 7 pm in room 207. Come and join us!

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Tom.



Festival of Pentecost and Affirmation of Baptism:
Sunday May 15th

Pentecost is always an exciting time at St. Paul's and 2016 will be no exception. Rowan Gjersvold, Murphy Harlee, Erin Hollar, Lars Nordquist and Brian Yetter will affirm their faith at the **11:00 am service** and be confirmed into full voting membership in the church. Our Confirmands have worked diligently over the last two years studying the Bible and the Small Catechism to prepare for this very special day. Help us celebrate with them and join us in praying for God's continued guidance in their lives. Following worship, there will be our annual Pentecost picnic. We hope you can join us! **Please Note that beginning next week, May 22nd and throughout the summer, there will only be one worship service at 10:00 am.**

Namibia Kick-Off Sunday
Speaker and Reception
May 22, 2016



In coordination with our sister synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN), St. Paul's will be sending a team to Namibia this summer from July 19th - August 2nd to help at some of the 19 orphanages that the ELCRN operates.

On May 22nd, the congregation is invited to attend a presentation on Namibia given by Pastor Bob Allard in the lower auditorium following the 10:00 am worship service. Pastor Allard will share information about Namibia and how St. Paul's can help our brothers and sisters in that country. A lite lunch will be available to those in attendance. For more information about the trip, please contact Pastor Tom or Gail Ferris. (tomholt@stpaulslutherandc.com or gailferriss@aya.yale.edu)

Sign-up Sheet for Namibia Reception

A sign-up sheet will be located in the Portico for those who would like to provide a side dish for the reception on May 22nd. Please gather in the lower auditorium immediately following the 10 am worship service. If you have any questions please contact Deaconess Cassie. (cbrown@stpaulslutherandc.com)

Theater Outing:
Saturday, May 21st at 3 pm

Luther, Hitler, Freud, Pope Francis, Martin Luther King Jr & the Devil. . . On Stage Together?

"Here I stand, I can do no other." – Martin Luther

Fellowship for Performing Arts presents:
"Martin Luther On Trial"



A trial in the afterlife, and the prosecutor... is the Devil. In the new original play Martin Luther on Trial, Luther's beloved wife Katarina defends him as witnesses including Adolf Hitler, Sigmund Freud, Rabbi Josel, St. Paul, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Pope Francis take the stand. Even as 2017 marks 500 years since Luther ignited the Protestant Revolt against Rome, he continues to spark intense debate. You be the judge in this witty, provocative exploration of one of history's most explosive personalities and the religious and political controversies he unleashed.

Want to go? We have a block of tickets set aside for the May 21st 3 pm performance at the Lansburgh Theater (450 7th Street, NW DC) and they're expected to go fast! The tickets are \$50 apiece. Reserve yours with Lisa Wackler at lwackler@stpaulslutherandc.com today. Checks may be made payable to *St. Paul's Lutheran Church*.



Summer Worship Schedule Begins May 22nd!

The worship schedule at St. Paul's changes during the summer. Each Sunday, beginning on May 22nd, there will be one worship service at 10:00 am. Sunday School does not meet during the summer.



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 seated exercise** that is led by an excellent instructor who has become an important part of the PTC community.

Upcoming Schedule

May 18

11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Activities-to-Go
"Magnificent, Magical Mexico"

May 25

11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Dr. Robert Jenner
"Aesop and His Fables"

June 1

Activities-to-Go
"Snappy Saying and Entertaining Expressions"

June 8

Charles Mokoff
Classical Guitarist

June 15

Nancy Abramson
"Nancy Sings"

June 22

Dr. Robert Jenner
"The Eruption of Krakatoa"



Gifts of Hope-Making a Difference Today and Tomorrow

Thank you for supporting Gifts of Hope last Advent. Gifts of Hope raised a total

of \$111,635.00 from the congregations in our Synod. Members and friends of St. Paul's Lutheran Church purchased gifts valued at \$5,510.00. All funds have been distributed to the designated beneficiary organizations. Your support provides hope for today and hope for tomorrow. Thanks to the volunteers who presented this alternative gift-giving option to your congregation.

Anniversaries, birthdays, holidays, memorials- the Gifts of Hope Catalog is available year-round at our website: www.giftsofhopedc.org. Select a gift from the online catalog and you will receive an all-purpose card to present to your honored loved one.

Carolyn Sowinski, Director



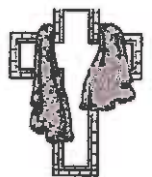
St. Paul's Day at Nationals Park

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 10, 7:05 p.m., against their division-rival Phillies. The cost for the tickets, which are in the third-base gallery under cover in case of rain, is \$20. For further details and to reserve tickets, please contact Gail Ferris at gailferris@aya.yale.edu

Prayer Shawl Ministry

May 29, 2016

This weekend is Memorial Day weekend but the Prayer Shawl Ministry will gather on May 29th at 10:00 am in the dining room. If you are in town and attending church come and join in on the discussions. All are welcome. If you have any questions contact Deaconess Cassie



♪ *Down beside the moonlit waters of Lake Ossipee, lies the beautiful Camp Calumet, dear to you and me. Swell the chorus, speed it onward, 'till the echoes ring. Let our camp go down in history, Calumet we sing!* ♪

From Erica Gresens....

Camp Calumet Lutheran sits on the shores of Lake Ossipee, in the shadow of Mt. Washington and the White Mountain National Forest in the beautiful state of New Hampshire. Sponsored by the ELCA New England Synod and Thrivent Financial, Calumet is a beautiful place Lutherans of all ages can grow in faith and fellowship.

As a child, I began my journey with Calumet during their Music Camp week. Children ages 8 – 18 can still enjoy Music Camp week as well as Adventure Camp, Drama Camp, and specific weeks dedicated for those with special needs. After four years as a camper, I participated in the Counselor in Training program, which prepares teens to be counselors and trains them as lifeguards as well. The following summer, I was a Junior Counselor and lifeguard.

My time at Camp Calumet was the highlight of my summers, but I'm sure many of you are wondering why I would ask you to send your children to a summer camp in New Hampshire. Well, Calumet is for adults too! While your children have the summer of their lives, you can also enjoy everything Calumet has to offer – daily arts and crafts activities, Bible study, hiking, canoeing, sailing, or simply relaxing along the shores of Lake Ossipee at Family Camp Beach. Across the street from the summer resident camp, sits the Family Camp Ground where tenting, camping, and other lodging options are available.

But wait! Calumet is open all year round! You can enjoy the sun and sand in the summer, the beautiful fall foliage of New England, picturesque winters with skiing and skating, and the beautiful bloom of spring.

If Calumet sounds like something you would like to experience or you would like more information, please visit their website calumet.org or feel free to email me directly at erica.gresens@gmail.com.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Update on Lutheran World Relief's Personal Care Kits



Many thanks to the generosity of the Congregation and Community of St. Paul's for their contributions of items for Lutheran World Relief's Personal Care Kits.

During Lent, we pledged to make 30 kits to send to people in need all over the world. On May 5th, we delivered 102 kits--more than three times our pledge!-- to Lutheran World Relief's Distribution Center in New Windsor, Maryland. All of our contributions were barcoded, so once our kits are distributed we can report back and let you know exactly where in the world they are headed!

Thank you again for sharing God's love for us in such a tangible way!



Reminder!

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

Church Council

Council members welcome your calls at their home phone numbers.

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Managing Editor, Joy Belew

If you have information you wish to have included in an issue, please send your submission to Joy by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

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