



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE TRUMPET
October 2016

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am reminded of the poem, *The Preacher's Mistake* by William Croswell Doone:

*The Parish Priest of austerity,
Climbed up a high church steeple
To be nearer God. So that he might hand
His word down to his people.*

*When the sun was high, when the sun was low,
The good man sat unheeding sublunary things,
From transcendency
Was he forever reading.*

*And now and again when he heard the creak
Of the weathervane a-turning.*

*He closed his eyes and said, "Of a truth
From God I now am learning."*

*And in sermon script he daily wrote
What he thought was sent from heaven,
And he dropped this down on his people's heads
Two times, one day in seven.*

*In his age God said, "Come down and die!"
And he cried out from the steeple
Where art thou, Lord?" And the Lord replied,
"Down here among my people."*

I turn to the poem especially on those occasions when I find myself spending too much time in the steeple. The steeple for me can be the church office where I sit at my desk doing administrative things. It can be burying my head in a hot new clergy journal, or walking around the church making sure that there are still thirty rows of pews in the nave. How about you? Do you, at times, find yourselves spending too much time in the steeple?

We sometimes think that in our search for God we need to get away from it all. Leave people behind and climb a mountain top to have a one on one with God. The poet, however, reminds us "Where art thou, Lord?" And the Lord replied, "Down here among my people." The scriptures echo the poet's words most dramatically when Jesus reminds us that he is among the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the strangers, and the prisoners, and if we have done something for the least of these among us we also have done something for our Lord.

Maybe that is why I treasure opportunities to visit hospitals and rehab facilities. Maybe that is why I have gone on mission trips with other volunteers to places like Biloxi, Galveston, Marysville, Staten Island and Namibia. Maybe that is why I'm thinking about another mission trip that might help folks who are suffering after Hurricane Matthew.

Maybe we have been spending too much time in whatever happens to be the steeple in our lives at this time. Maybe we might want to consider a mission trip. Maybe we don't have to go to Florida, the Carolinas or Haiti to be of help to God's people, just reach out and help some of the ones who grace our doorsteps from time to time. God bless.

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

Donald Althouse

Chuck Mattah

Katherine Davis

Johanne Jackson

Grace Yin

Richard & Sara Mattick

Peter Hewko

Ron & Nancy Rademacher

Ellen Cohen

Barb Pitts

Ginger Lirardi

Anya & Miriam Burt

Carol Pihlstrom

Ann Bauer

Caelan Doherty

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



**Weekly Bible Study:
Wednesdays @ 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 meets every Wednesday at 7 pm in room 207. Come and join us! If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Tom or Vicar Chris (tomholt@stpaulslutherandc.com or cschaefer@stpaulslutherandc.com)

Life at St. Paul's – August and September



Six Sundays of Summer Service Recap!

While it may have been the lazy, hazy days of summer, St. Paul's did NOT take a holiday from serving! Our Six Sundays of Summer Service Initiative was back this year, and our parish was busy with a variety of service projects.

In July and August, St. Paul's:

- Packed over 300 pounds of blankets, clothing, toys, and other needed items for **Youth Hostels in Namibia** (and these items were delivered by our **Namibian Mission Team**)
- Arranged and delivered 24 vases of flowers to residents of Friendship Terrace and Forest Hills of DC (a/k/a The Methodist Home)
- Collected enough change (over \$400!) through the **ELCA World Hunger Piggy Bank Project** to purchase 14 pigs for **needy families** around the world.
- Wrote 33 cards and notes to servicemen and servicewomen around the world as a part of "**A Million Thanks**" project
- Packed 20 handbags loaded with supplies for homeless women which will be distributed through Friendship Place as a part of the **Handbags for Homeless Women** project

We had also planned a clean-up day for our own **St. Paul's Homeless Shelter**, but due to the early arrival of the furniture, the work was completed a day early!

Thank you to everyone for their participation in each of these projects, and making a difference in ways big and small. It truly allows us to serve our neighbors following the example of Jesus Christ.

Lisa Wackler
Director of Congregational Life



September 11, 2016

Sunday School has begun...



Fun times on the obstacle course....



Lessons from our neighbors, engine house 31.....



Thank you to first responders on this anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 9/11/2001....



Mission Trip to Namibia



Welcome to Vicar Chris Schaefer & End of Summer Ice Cream Social!



Vicar's Voice

Fall has always been one of my favorite times of the year. As a kid it was always time to go back to school, which I actually enjoyed, and as a former Pre-K teacher, going back to school meant getting to set up the classroom and make everything ready for the new students. In many ways it is a time of new beginnings, a restart after the slower Sabbath days of summer. It's a time to reconnect with those in our various communities and get back to work. This usually means it's a busy time as well, but there are now plenty of pumpkin spiced items to keep us caffeinated and sugared up for the work at hand.

As much as it is a time for starting back up in our U.S. culture, the natural world begins to slow down a bit. Despite what the forecasts show right now, the shorter days and (hopefully) cooler temperatures signify the beginning of an end. Harvesting is just around the corner and leaves will slowly shut down their operation as they have completed their appointed work. This is a very helpful reminder for us to be mindful about our pace, to slow down and breath, remaining confident that all things happen in their own time, and that the world will keep on going even if we don't get every single item checked off our daily to-do list.

In this I am reminded of the medieval Christian mystic, Julian of Norwich. Living in relative solitude for much of her adult life in a cell connected to a larger church, she spent a great deal of time meditating, reflecting, and observing the world around her. This practice influenced much of her writing, including the following prayer that is attributed to her:

"In you, Father all-mighty, we have our preservation and our bliss.

In you, Christ, we have our restoring and our saving.

You are our mother, brother, and Saviour. In you, our Lord the Holy Spirit, is marvelous and plenteous grace.

You are our clothing; for love you wrap us and embrace us.

You are our maker, our lover, our keeper.

Teach us to believe that by your grace all shall be well, and all shall be well,

and all manner of things shall be well. Amen"

Vicar Chris

Deaconess Meditation **"Movin' On"**

It's time to move on, don't you agree? The calendar tells us that it's time to move on from trips to the beach, long vacations, chats with friends, and days without schedules. Here at St. Paul's the fall is also time to move on; move on from the summer heat and lack of air-conditioning, too many fans, iced bottled water, and exploring new ways to keep cool during worship services! Right?

Even without all of the summer challenges at St. Paul's we are movin' into the season and the "church new year." As we look at the church's fall calendar each of us needs to ask ourselves where will we move onto within the church. There are so many areas to explore and serve at St. Paul's. So many are familiar to us – choir, altar guild, tellers, ushers, lay readers, assisting ministers – just to name a few. But perhaps a critically important place to move on to happens in our sanctuary. It is that place of community where we are committed to being each Sunday. A place in which we are strengthened and renewed through Word and Sacrament. It is in within this sanctuary that we recognize that God is calling us to move on, move on to serve one another.

There is an old saying that goes something like this: "It all starts at home." It is not too much of a stretch for us to apply that simple phrase to our congregation as we seek God's guidance at the beginning of the new church year at St. Paul's - *our church home*. Perhaps the call to service is sitting next to you in the pew, or maybe a member who usually sits there but you haven't seen for a couple of weeks. Perhaps it is that person whose expression reflects one of aloneness. Ask yourself: What is God calling you to do this year to serve Him and others?

I want to share a short paragraph from an article that I came across; one that rings true for each of us as we seek ways to enhance and grow together in the mission of God's church – St. Paul's community of believers.

"By committing themselves to meet regularly together, Christians become aware of those who are not gathering together – those who are absent. This is how community develops the practice of pastoral care and evangelism, the skill of memory for those missing, the virtue of love for the lost, and the notion of the communion of saints."
(Samuel Well: *The Drama of Christian Ethics*)

I encourage each of you to spend a few moments to reflect on these words. Together we have moved on through the heat of summer and into the crispness of fall. St. Paul's has entered a new church year that started in September. As you begin this year think of committing yourself and family to attend church each Sunday. Become aware and get to know those who sit around you on Sunday mornings and even those seated on the other side of the sanctuary. Make a point of following up on someone who you see is missing; as Jesus did by example, "seek the lost." Let us pray that we will move on to new areas of service to one another during this new church year – even if that only involves moving across the aisle on a Sunday morning to show caring and compassion for someone in need.

I pray that our gracious God will guide and direct St. Paul's community of believers to move on to those in need of Jesus' love and our compassionate caring.

In Christ's service,
Deaconess Cassie



A Message From Barb Pitts:

I've been a member of St. Paul's my entire life, having been baptized in 1956 in the Lower Auditorium before the Sanctuary even existed! 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.

The last two months have been tough for me, as I have been suffering from something called Ascites. It's a buildup of fluid in the abdomen that occurs as your liver becomes less productive. I've managed to stay healthy for 13 years, but this leads to more serious issues, so we're trying different medications, tests, and procedures to delay the need for a liver transplant. It's obviously scary, but my wonderful friends are helping me get through this, and any money you donate will help fund research that will help thousands of people like me.

You can make a donation using a credit card by simply going to my personal page on the ALF website. My goal was to raise \$2,000. Thankfully I've passed that and would love to collect a lot more. Any amount will help so much. **If possible, please make your donation by October 31st.** Go to the following link to donate:

http://alf.convio.net/site/TR/LiverLifeWalk2016/Mid-Atlantic?pg=entry&fr_id=5623

On the top of the page click on "Donate". On the next page enter Barb Pitts in "Walker's Name", hit enter, then scroll down to the bottom and click on my name. Once you're on my personal page just click on the "Donate" button and follow the instructions.

If you'd prefer to make a donation by check you can send a 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 friendship, prayers, and support mean to me. If you have any questions, please call me at 301-652-3217.

Barb

What's Happening....



Adult Sunday School: The life of Martin Luther

Please join the "**Coffee and Conversation**" group as they continue the journey with Martin Luther that ends at the church doors at Wittenberg and the beginning of the Reformation.

Reformation 500: A Journey to Wittenberg will explore the events leading up to the Reformation as we get ready to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in October 2017. We'll take a look at Luther's life, the world as it was in the early 16th century, the power of the Catholic church, and the aftermath of Luther's revolutionary theories.

We hope you'll join us! The class will meet in the lower Fellowship Hall during Sunday School, 10:00-10:45 am.

St. Paul's Reformation Day Lunch Sunday, October 30th



Please join us immediately after the 11 O'clock Service on Sunday, October 30th for a German-inspired luncheon and the opportunity to continue our celebration of the 499th Reformation Day!

We will gather outside, weather-permitting (and inside in the Fellowship Hall, if not).

This is not a potluck, so you don't need to sign up to bring anything-just come and enjoy each other's company!

And if you want to continue your celebrations, please plan to join us at the Washington National Cathedral at 4:00 p.m. for the Reformation Day Worship Service hosted by the ELCA Metro D.C. Synod. (If you would like to go, and need a ride from the church, please contact Lisa Wackler, Director of Congregational Life at lwackler@stpaulslutherandc.com.)

ELCA Votes bible study/workshop



St. Paul's will be hosting a workshop & bible study on Sunday, Oct. 16 directly after the 11 am service (~ 12:30pm) on the **ELCA Votes! Initiative**. We will have conversation and prayer around our role as U.S. residents and as people of faith in ensuring our election systems promote dignity and respect for all, and also learn ways to advocate and engage in our local & national government regarding the election process, as well as other issues facing us and our neighbors near and far. Questions? Contact Vicar Chris (cschaefer@stpaulslutherandc.com).

St. Paul's Nursery School

has one immediate opening for 3-4 year old. It is a part time morning program, Monday through Friday, 9 am-12. It is a caring and loving environment for young children, and is a great introduction to school. Please check out the website below or call the Director of the school, Katie Johnson at 202 966-0214 for more information.

<http://www.stpaulsnurseryschool-dc.org>



Drivers Needed for St. Paul's Food Pantry!

St. Paul's Food Pantry continues to be a success, and we are hoping to add a few more volunteer drivers to our team to keep it running smoothly! We are looking to supplement our existing driver team with new volunteers, who would be able to pick up food at the Capital Area Food Bank once a month or so. The pickup is on Friday mornings, so anyone with a flexible schedule would be ideal! Please contact Pete Schroeder at pschroeder06@gmail.com if you are interested in helping out, and keeping members of our community fed!

Looking for Confirmation Sponsors!

This year we are blessed to have **twenty students** in our Confirmation class. The Confirmands are a combination of first-year students in the 7th grade, and second-year students in the 8th grade.



Confirmation students will spend this year learning what it means to be Christian, discussing our faith and what God says about living our lives in the way that Jesus taught us. We will also study Martin Luther's small catechism to see what this reformer—(and father of the Protestant faith)—says about faith and grace, and what we as Lutherans believe.

One of the most important things we can do as a congregation is support these students as they make this journey toward the Affirmation of their Baptism. We hope to pair each one of our Confirmation students with a Confirmation Sponsor from the congregation.

What does a Confirmation Sponsor do? It's very simple! Confirmation Sponsors will periodically reach out to their Confirmand by phone, text, email, or snail mail. Extensive knowledge of the Bible or the Confirmation process is not required...just a desire to help and get to know your Confirmand, and a commitment to keeping him or her in your prayers! If interested, please contact one of the four teachers:

Pastor Tom: tomholt@stpaulslutherandc.com;

Deaconess Cassie:

cbrown@stpaulslutherandc.com; Vicar Chris:

cschaefer@stpaulslutherandc.com; or Lisa

Wackler: lwackler@stpaulslutherandc.com

Deaconess Notes

The Prime Time Center at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Letter from a PTC participant

Over the past two years many of you have inquired about the Prime Time Center and how things are going. It's difficult to describe in words except to share that every Wednesday at St. Paul's has become an important day in the lives of those attending from our church and the neighborhood. The Wednesdays vary in the areas of programs and menus but the constants are the reflections of laughter, community, and joy that are expressed by those in attendance. Each of the faithful ministry members are such critical components in the continued service to this group. It's on many Wednesdays that you will hear them share how tired they are at the end of the day but in the next breath expressing how much fun they had being with the group.

In an effort to provide a glimpse into the many ways the participants express their thankfulness to St. Paul's, I am sharing a letter that was received in May, 2016. (What "Prime Time" means to me. Printed below). I hope that it will touch each of you as much as it touched Pastor and the entire ministry team. I would encourage you to remember The Prime Time Center in your prayers as we continue to seek out those in need of caring and a sense of community. God's blessings to all.
Deaconess Cassie

"What "Prime Time" means to me.

To: Pastor Thomas Omholt and Deaconess Cassie Brown

Over two years ago I lost my spouse, entered my late eighties, and had to give up driving. Most everyone faces these things in life. Loneliness among older people is considered a major health problem in this country.

But what to do about it? I knew I needed to get out with other people. Every day if possible. But how? I needed to make new friends, and I needed transportation. But with an aging body, these problems seemed insurmountable. I tried support groups and different aging programs. But nothing really helped.

One day, I happened to see a flier announcing a music performance at St. Paul's. There was even a phone number to call for transportation. I made the call, and looked forward to hearing the music.

But I never expected to find what I encountered there! I was first warmly greeted at my door by Jay Guerber, a delightful and caring driver. When we arrived at the church, I was given a warm welcoming hug by Deaconess Cassie Brown. And another hug by Viola Johnson. (Believe me, hugs mean a lot!)

I then entered a large hall filled with friendly people who introduced themselves and made me feel welcome.

The music program, the served luncheon, and the exercise program led by the fabulous Ann all were a delight. And the regular driver, Jorge Bernardo is unbelievable in his warmth and banter and caring and consideration for all of us. He gives us a hug each time, and even gave each of us a rose on Valentine's Day. Pastor Thomas Omholt is warm and welcoming as well.

Attendants there told me of the Georgetown Senior Center on Mondays and Fridays. So I embraced that series as well.

I have been attending every one of these programs since my first day.

I cannot believe my good fortune in finding this program. I look forward to every single time. The performances are all first rate and varied. I find it incredible that so many talented and professional partners share their time with us. The depression I had suffered has miraculously disappeared.

Whoever designed this program knows exactly what elderly people need. Not only that, but what truly enriches our lives.

I cannot thank you enough for providing this opportunity. It is indeed a Godsend."



American Red Cross - Certified Babysitter Training:



**November 6, 2016
12:30 pm – 6:00 pm**

St. Paul's is partnering with the Red Cross to sponsor a Babysitter Training course on Sunday, November 6th from 12:30 pm – 6:00 pm. The class will begin immediately after the 11:00 am worship service in the lower auditorium. It will include book instructions, various necessary technics, a DVD, and hands-on experience by the youth. A lite lunch will be provided as participants enter the classroom. The Red Cross requires a minimum of five youth. Upon completion of the class each participant will receive an American Red Cross Certification card. The fee for the course is \$85.00 per student but please contact Pastor Omholt regarding any assistance that might be needed. There is a sign-up sheet located in the Portico if you would like to attend. Contact Deaconess Cassie with any questions. **Checks should be made out to TFC Lifesavers in the amount of \$85.00 on the day of the class.**



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, Ann who has become an important part of the PTC community.

Upcoming Schedule

October 19th

Activities-to-Go.
"OOOPS! The Inadvertent Invention of Innumerable Interesting Items"

October 26th

Dr. Robert Jenner
"The Story of Chocolate"



St. Francis Blessing of the Animals

St. Francis of Assisi was born in 1182, and was the son of a rich merchant. As a young man, Francis received a vision from God, which led him to abandon his life of leisure and travel the country as a poor beggar. He inspired others to follow his example and his ways became the foundation of the Franciscan Order in the Catholic Church.

Francis believed in bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to all of God's creation, which included animals and birds. In honor of St. Francis' love of animals, St. Paul's held a Blessing of the Animals Service on Sunday, October 2nd. People, along with their furry, scaly, and feathered friends gathered in the Plaza to celebrate the life of St. Francis and each pet received a blessing and a goodie bag too!



Life Passages

Margaret Anne Lane Joins Church Triumphant.

Margaret "Peggy" Lane, a longtime member of St. Paul's, passed away peacefully on Monday, September 26, 2016. She was 83 years old. A life celebration service was held at St. Paul's on October 2, 2016. Our prayers go out to Peggy's family and friends.

Karen Louise Kuckuck Joins Church Triumphant.

Karen Kuckuck, daughter of Joni and Bill Kuckuck, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, September 27, 2016. She was 32 years old. A life celebration service was held at St. Paul's on Thursday, September 29, 2016. Our prayers go out to Karen's family and friends.

Baptisms:

Aaron Lamar Barnhart was baptized on 9/11/16. Aaron Lamar was born to Christi and Mike Barnhart on May 29, 2016.

Sophie Lynn Ellenberger and Ava Arlene Ellenberger were baptized on 9/25/16. Sophie Lynn and Ava Arlene were born to Ethan and Amy Ellenberger on July 2, 2016.

Reaching out to Miriam & Anya Burt

Miriam and Anya Burt moved to Green Valley, Arizona this summer, but since the move they have experienced one serious challenge after another, including hospitalization for Miriam. The congregation is invited to write notes, letters, cards to them letting them know that we are holding them in prayer. The cards will be personally delivered to them on October 31 so please bring them to the church office or Deaconess Cassie's office by October 30.



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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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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