

The Bridge

SEPTEMBER 2017 "Connecting Church and Home"

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

This last month we have witnessed the violence in Charlottesville, Virginia as members of the KKK, white nationalists and others clashed with counter-protestors. We have heard a prominent evangelical leader, Robert Jeffress of First Baptist Church in Dallas announce, "In the case of North Korea, God has given Trump authority to take out Kim Jong Un."

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I am reminded how in Jerusalem Jesus refused to meet violence with violence. When Jesus said, *"I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone" (e.g., a Roman soldier)" forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor^[1] and hate your enemy.'* But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Matthew 5:39-44

Jesus stood silent before the Sanhedrin the night of his arrest. Jesus was willing to even forgive those who were crucifying him. Jesus sacrifice on the cross ushered in God's reign. It was Jesus' confronting evil with God's overpowering love that conquered sin and death.

As Christians, we are called to walk the way of the cross. We are ones who follow the one said, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing" from the cross. Jesus said, "Take up your cross and follow me."

Let us take the opportunity to pray for our leaders and our country. Let us take the opportunity to pray for those who have differing views from us. Let us take the opportunity to pray for those who find violence as their only recourse.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Blessings,

Pastor Dan

FROM YOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

At the congregational meeting on August 20th the changes to our Constitution, all but two of which were mandated by the ELCA, were approved. Reports were also given by the various committees highlighting the written reports which had been printed in the written annual report that was assembled by Pastor Dan.

Council had our annual picnic meeting the middle of August which gave Council members and their spouses an opportunity to get to know each other a little better outside of a regular meeting setting. We heard the good news at the meeting that the first of our double giving on the fifth Sunday went very well and that if the congregation responds similarly to the other fifth Sundays this year it will help a lot to cover the challenge part of our budget.

Finally, as I write this we are scheduled to close on the sale of the parsonage on Friday, August 25th. We are to receive \$167,000 for the house which will more than cover our purchase price and all the money we spent on repairs and upgrades to the house without even considering the fact that we saved over \$1000 a month in housing allowance during the period we had a full time pastor. I will try to give a more complete final accounting in a future month.

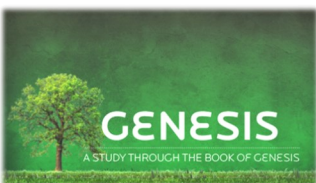
As I stated at the Annual meeting, Council is very appreciative for the help that Susan and Mike Schmidt provided in selling the property in such a timely manner and for notifying us that they intend to donate their commission back to St. Paul's just as they did when they helped us purchase the house. Please keep Susan in mind when you need the services of a realtor.

I hope you will make note of all the church programs and activities that will be starting back up this fall and will participate in many of them.

Greg Klein

Council President

ADULT BIBLE STUDY



Join Pastor Dan every Sunday morning as he continues a study through Genesis. Class will meet on the upper level of the Parish Hall after 1st Service. Please consider this opportunity for learning, discussion and fellowship. Bring your Bible, a friend and a good cup of coffee. We'll see you there!

NEW MEMBER GATHERINGS

Beginning September 10th, Pastor Dan will host New Member Gatherings every Sunday morning at 8am. Coffee & Donuts will be served.

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR DAN



Come join us Thursday mornings at 10:00am as we continue our journey through the Gospel of Mark. Visitors are always not just welcome, but encouraged. Each class will run about an hour.

The Gospel of Mark is thought to be the earliest of the four gospels. In fact, it is thought to be the basis of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. There were no concerns of plagiarism in the first century. It is also the shortest of the gospels. More than any of the other gospels, the Gospel of Mark concentrates on the story of Jesus rather than the teachings of Jesus.

September 7 - Chapter 13 14 - Chapter 14 21 - Chapter 15

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

It has been a quiet summer for the Call Committee. Please be certain we are maintaining contact with our synod through Pastor Karl Biermann, Assistant to the Bishop, and are awaiting additional pastoral candidate profiles for our review. Thank you for continuing to pray for this important process, even as we give thanks for Pastor Dan's ministry at St. Paul's while we wait.



Patty Long,
Call Committee Chair

COMMUNITY MEAL & CLOSET



communitymeal

St. Paul's welcomed and fed eighty-eight (88) hungry visitors to our monthly Community Meal on Friday, August 11.

Our summertime menu consisted of hot dogs, baked beans, potato chips, choice of a beverage, and a cookie for dessert. All children attending were given a choice of two (2) books to take home with them as a gift from St. Paul's.

Many of the attendees visited the Community Closet after the meal. It is clear that this important ministry has made a positive impact on many of these people as they often inquire (as they are being fed), "Is the Community Closet going to be open today?" Our answer is always "Yes!" Praise God!

A special thanks to all of the many volunteers who work to make this outreach effort a success. This month in particular we had many workers on vacation, but no shortage of people ready to step in and help out... What a joy it is to serve the Lord!

St. Paul's Community Meal and Community Closet provide a free meal and clothing for all on the 2nd Friday of each month. Our next opening is Friday, September 8, from 4:30-6:00pm. Thank you for your prayers and continued support.

Jack & Marsha Fortune
Community Meal Directors

Lea Lang
Community Closet Director



MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND: CALL FOR GRANT REQUESTS

Call for Grant Requests
To
St. Paul's Mission Endowment Fund
Rev. August 1, 2017

For the third year, St. Paul's Mission Endowment Fund is able to accept Grant Requests for distributions of funds from the Fund. The net amount available for distribution currently stands at \$13,203.52. This is net of a \$24,000 "reserve" for pastoral compensation, if needed; and does not consider any return of funds from the potential sale of St. Paul's parsonage.

The purpose of this article is to make St. Paul's members aware of the potential that now exists for distribution of funds, and to solicit requests for Grants from the Mission Endowment Fund for the purposes outlined in the Fund Guidelines, as outlined below.

Your Fund Committee (Kathy Corban, Debbie Hoffman, Karl Kalk, Becky Johnson and Roger Knudsen) is looking for Grant Proposals that fit within the Guidelines. We would ask that any Grant Proposals that you wish to bring forward be expressed in writing and directed to Debbie Hoffman, Committee Secretary. To assist in the evaluation of requests, we are recommending that requests include the following:

- Name of the charity or organization to receive the grant, and the name or names of the organization's chair person
- The amount of money requested in the grant, and for what the money will be used
- The total amount of money (if known) being sought by the grant recipient(s) in addition to the amount requested from the Mission Endowment Fund; and from whom that additional money will come
- The name or names of the St. Paul's member(s) submitting the grant for possible approval

In general, the recipients of any grants distributed by St. Paul's Mission Endowment Fund will need to be tax-exempt, non-profit organizations, commonly referred to as "501(c)(3)" organizations. That should be clarified up-front with any potential grant recipients.

There will no doubt be questions going forward. Please contact any of the members of the Mission Endowment Fund with your questions, and we will get you an answer.

We are excited to be involved in this phase of outreach, using the funds that (for the most part) past members of St. Paul's have given to our congregation to continue the work of the Church in our community and the world.

Mission Endowment Fund

Distribution Guidelines

The Guidelines for Distribution of funds from the St. Paul's Mission Endowment Fund are as follows:

- ⇒ Up to 15% percent for capital improvements, debt reduction or a building program of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Massillon, Ohio.
- ⇒ Up to 40% percent for additional staffing for growth initiatives for St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Massillon, Ohio, such staffing to be paid for by the FUND only for a limited time to be determined by the COMMITTEE.

- ⇒ Up to 30% percent for outreach into the community and synod, including, but not limited to, grants to ELCA seminaries, colleges or students attending such schools, social service agencies, institutions and agencies to which this congregation relates, and to special programs designed for those persons in our parish area who are in spiritual and/or economic need.
- ⇒ Up to 50% percent for missions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in this continent and worldwide, including, but not limited to, grants to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, professional leadership, educational ministries, global mission, ecumenism, evangelism, social ministries and capital financing.
- ⇒ Any remaining income, after the distributions outlined in a, b, c and d above, shall be reinvested in the FUND to continue the growth of the principal.

The Mission Endowment Fund Committee

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The following is an excerpt from the July 2017 edition of Lutheran World Relief’s Special Reports. During our 40 days of giving, St. Paul’s gave \$5000 towards two wells and over \$6,700 to the greatest need. This article is just one of many examples of your generosity at work around the globe.



Luisito’s Turtor is using a mud boat to prepare his land for rice planting. He’s able to do this because of a new water system in his community and pumps that carry the water to his thirsty fields. With a better water supply, his family is healthier too.

Luisito and his family live in Agusan del Sur, a landlocked province in Mindanao, in the southern Philippines.

People in thi sregion—especially children—struggle with malnutrition. Natural disasters, changing weather patterns, internal conflicts and other factors have contributed to a severe lack of economic opportunity here. Many families cannot grow or earn enough to feed their households year-round.

Luisito, like many people in this area, grows rice to support his family. A good rice harvest requires rain, but the El Nino weather phenomenon caused stretches of drought that left his fields dry and his family hungry.

Thanks to your generosity, six new community water systems are helping families in several different ways. Farmers like Luisito are able to use pumps to get water to their fields to continue planting and harvesting rice. The improved access to water is also helpful to women, who are often tasked with fetching water for their households. With water more easily accessible, mothers spend more time growing nutritious vegetables and learning new ways to prepare them to help combat childhood malnutrition.

Families participating in this project saw an increase in income of 25 percent, and a reduction in childhood malnutrition of more than 84 percent.

Thank you for providing water and reducing childhood malnutrition in the Philippines!

STEWARDSHIP NOTES

As we look to our Stewardship Campaign, please take a moment to read these words from our Bishop.

*Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.*

[Isaiah 55:1]

The connections between food and faith are fascinatingly striking.

As I rode the train home from Philadelphia, I read a book entitled, *Take This Bread*, by Sara Miles. It's the author's memoir of how she came to faith by the transformational act of receiving communion for the first time – at the age of 46!

Raised an atheist, the simple act of receiving the body and blood of Christ spurred Miles to begin a food ministry at that same church a year later, and, eventually, be baptized.

Yes, I know that's contrary to our sense of proper Lutheran procedure, but how we do things isn't the point of this story.

Miles writes in her memoir, "The food pantry, as I envisioned it, was another way of doing church—though one that didn't demand belief or expect people to pray. It wasn't a social program but a service, modeled on the liturgy of the Eucharist...because none of us 'deserved' communion, and we still received it every week"

There are times when need outweighs protocol. That is, in a sense, the point of this week's gospel reading from Matthew of the feeding of the 5,000. When Jesus sees the multitude of people gathering to see him, Matthew says that he had compassion on them. Jesus meets the needs of others in his life of obedience to God.

But the command that is often missed when people read Matthew's version of the story is that, contrary to popular belief, Jesus does not feed the crowd. He tells the disciples to feed the crowd.

"**YOU** give them something to eat," he tells them.

The reason for the disciples' resistance is that they don't have the physical resources to feed the crowd. They weren't necessarily being cold-hearted in their refusal to feed the crowds, but with only five loaves and two fish, they just didn't see how it was possible.

How familiar does this sound to you? How often, in our congregational life, do we look around, and all we see is what we don't have? We look at our meager resources and think, "We don't even have enough here for ourselves, much less anyone else."

It is easy to fall into the trap of thinking that unless we have enough to start with then we can't help. Our whole existence as church is by faith. If God presents us with an opportunity, our challenge is to look for ways that we



CAN do it, rather than looking at what we've got and then decide whether or not we can do it. It may drive your church treasurer crazy, but Jesus doesn't let us off the hook so easily as we would like.

Jesus is concerned with meeting our needs on every level, and calls us to meet the needs of others in the same way. It's astounding how little becomes much when God is in it.

The Psalm response for this week contains a familiar Lutheran table prayer that many of us have often recited before meals:

*The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.
You open wide your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.*

[Psalm 145:15-16]

And I close with another that is perhaps more familiar to most of us:

*Come Lord Jesus be our Guest;
And let these gifts to us be blest.
And may there be a goodly share;
On every table, everywhere.
Amen.*

THE SALVATION ARMY

Dear Friends at St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

We are writing to express our deepest thanks for the recent donation of \$100.00 from St. Paul's Lutheran Church to The Salvation Army of Massillon. Generous gifts from organizations like St. Paul's Lutheran Church provide the financial and moral support needed to continue our mission.

It is our hope that this thank you will help to communicate our very big thanks for your generosity. We aim to glorify Jesus in all we do for the Kingdom!

Sincerely,

Thomas and Linda-Jo Perks

Majors, Corps Commanding Officers

MAKE-A-WAY

Dear Friends at St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Make-A-Way Center, I would like to thank you for your generous gift of \$100.00. Please know that your generosity will help Make-A-Way continue to make a difference in the lives of our members.

Your most generous gift to the Make-A-Way Center is an investment in the future of persons with disabilities. It is a promise that their future can be brighter, and that they may receive experiences that will enhance their lives and allow them to grow toward greater independence and happiness.

Sincerely,

Bryan E. Stuck

Executive Director

BLOODMOBILE

The need is constant. The gratification is instant. Give Blood.

Monday, September 11, 2017

12-6pm

St. Paul's Parish Hall—Dining Room



OMEGA CIRCLE

All women are invited to join us Tuesday, September 5th at 1:00pm in the Gleitsman Lounge as we begin our Bible Study on the Apostle's Creed. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Jacquie Zupp at (330) 837-9185.

FOOD FOR HOME

"My command is this; Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12.

We invite you to join us as we participate in a community ministry called Food for Home. This ministry will provide easy-to-prepare food items to Massillon Middle and Intermediate School's children on the last two Fridays of each month. We want to bridge the hunger gap so that no child goes hungry on our city's watch. The Middle School Care team is working with us to provide an income-based list of children in need. Right now, more than 800 children are eligible to sign up for this program!



St. Paul's will be collecting cans of Beef Ravioli for this ministry. Please drop off all donations in the Narthex by September 18. Thank you for generosity!



SNIP-N-STITCH

Beginning September 6, you're invited to join Snip-n-Stitch each Wednesday from 9:00-11:30am. We are always looking for volunteers to help us make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. No experience is needed, just a willingness to help others. If interested, please contact Gladys Zepp for more details.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please contact the church office if you would like to provide flowers for the following dates:

Altar: September 17

Throne: September 3, 10, 17 and 24

Chancel: September 3, 10 and 17

CHOIRS

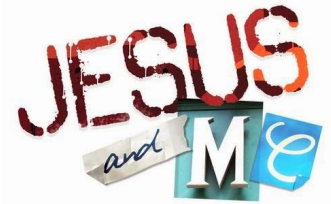
Vocal & Bell Choirs will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 6. Jubilee Ringers will meet at 5:15pm followed by Reformation Ringers at 6:30pm. Adult Vocal Choir will meet at 7:30pm.

WOW

WOW is back in session! Join us each Wednesday at 5:30pm for a light meal followed by a time of music and lessons. This is a wonderful opportunity to build friendships, have fun and grow together! Please see Amy Stuck for more details.

JAM (JESUS & ME)

All elementary youth grades 1-5 are invited to join us Sunday, September 17 for an afternoon at Ramseyer Farms (4000 Ramseyer Ln, Wooster, OH 44691). We'll leave the church at 1:00pm, make a brief stop at Dalton Park (to meet up with the rest of the group) and head on to Ramseyer for an afternoon full of kids games, hayrides, mazes and more. Cost is \$5/person. *Food and snacks are available at the farm for an additional cost. For more details, please contact Deidra Monastra.



YOUTH NEWS

Night Canoe @ Trailhead Canoe Livery— All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to check out the Tusc by the light of the moon on September 8 from 6-8pm! Come enjoy the tranquility of an evening on the water and top it all off with great food by the fire. Cost is \$10/St. Paul's Youth and \$20/Friend. Price includes boat rental, hotdogs, salads, chips, s'mores and drinks. For more information, please contact Tracie Brumfield.

Entertainment Books—It's almost that time of year again! Entertainment books will be here soon and you won't want to miss getting one. The youth group sells these books each year to earn money for their National Youth Gathering!

Butterbraids —will also be sold again soon! Watch for free samples and order forms soon!



Dear St. Paul's,

On behalf of our entire family, we would like to thank you for your prayers and many expressions of sympathy in response to our mother's death on July 21.

Your love and kindness has sustained us in ways we can never fully describe. Our mom, Jean Murphy, was the first to introduce us to the Lord Jesus. For that profound blessing and for all of you, we give thanks to God.

Gratefully,

Patty Long & Sandi Bennett

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September 10

Brenda Brown
125 David Canary Dr. SW
Apt. 314
Massillon, OH 44647

September 21

Grace Banfield
322-11th Street NW
Massillon, OH 44647

September 21

Ruth Crone
2036 Amherst Rd. NW
Massillon, OH 44646



September 22

Darlene Lewis
4806 Manchester Ave. SW
Navarre, OH 44662

September 22

Helen Rollins
Laurels of Massillon
2000 Sherman Circle
Massillon, OH 44646



SERVERS SCHEDULE

Sep.	Acolytes	Communion			Greeters
		Bread Baker	Servers	Sacristy	
3	Jacob & Molly Hodge	Mary Hepler	(1) Joe Hepler & Adam Johnson; (2) Becky Moden	Amy White	Greg & Lynda Klein
10	Ryan Hostetler & Jaden Brumfield	Mary Hepler	(1) Jim Johnson & Elizabeth Juergensen;	Amy White	David Stoner
17	Audrey & Katrina Hepler	Mary Hepler	(1) Greg Klein & Becky Moden ; (2) Doug White	Amy White	Becky Myers
24	Tony Davila & Jaden Brumfield	Mary Hepler	(1) Eric Myers & Sue Reid; (2) Marcia Wright	Amy White	Russ & MaryAnn Poling

Altar Flower Delivery: Carol Marlow

Aug.	Lector	Offering Counters	Ushers	Assisting Minister
6	Becky White	Doug White, Dan Farrar & Adam Johnson	Dave Dourm, Russ Poling, Joe Hepler & Phil Halco	Andrew Lang
13	Becky White	Elizabeth Juergensen, Marcia Wright & Greg Klein	Dave Dourm, Russ Poling, Joe Hepler & Phil Halco	Karl Kalk
20	Becky White	Sue Reid, Eric Myers & Christine Bates	Dave Dourm, Russ Poling, Joe Hepler & Phil Halco	Doug White
27	Becky White	Jim Johnson, Joe Hepler & Becky Moden	Dave Dourm, Russ Poling, Joe Hepler & Phil Halco	Scott Larson

Deadline to submit articles for the October edition of the Bridge is Friday, September 15.

Please submit your articles via email to: chris@stpaulsmassillon.org or drop them off at the office at your earliest convenience. Thank You!



Chris Ralston

September 2017

Join us each
 Sunday at:
 9:00am-1st
 10:30am-SS
 11:15am-2nd

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Office Closed Labor Day	5 1pm-Omega	6 9:00am Snip'n'Stitch 5:15pm-Jubilee 5:30pm-WOW 6:30pm Reformation 7:30pm Choir	7 10am-Bible Study Property Meeting	8 4:30-6pm Community Meal & Clothes Closet 6:00-8pm Youth Night Canoe	9
10 Rally Day	11 12-6pm Blood Drive	12 6:30 Executive 7:00 Council	13 9:00am Snip'n'Stitch 5:15pm-Jubilee 5:30pm-WOW 6:30pm Reformation 7:30pm Choir	14 10am-Bible Study 6pm-Friendship Circle	15 National Youth Gathering Sign-Up	16
17 JAM Event @ Ramseyer Farms 1:00pm	18	19 Finance Meeting	20 9:00am Snip'n'Stitch 5:15pm-Jubilee 5:30pm-WOW 6:30pm Reformation 7:30pm Choir	21 10am-Bible Study	22	23
24 The Luther Movie with Light Meal 6:00pm	25	26	27 9:00am Snip'n'Stitch 5:15pm-Jubilee 5:30pm-WOW 6:30pm Reformation 7:30pm Choir	28 10am-Bible Study	29	30

Check us out on:



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THE BRIDGE—CONNECTING CHURCH AND HOME

WORSHIP SERVICES

9:00am—1st Service

10:30am—Sunday School

11:15am—2nd Service

Nursery is staffed by qualified personnel
and available for infant to age 5 from
8:30am to 12:00pm.

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

127 Cherry Road NE

Massillon, Ohio 44646

Rev. Daniel J. Cammarn, Pastor

djcammar@gmail.com

Phone: 330.832.7409

Office Hours: M-Th 9-4pm; F 9-1pm