

SEPTEMBER 2015
Volume 41, Issue 8

The Bells

WORSHIP WITH US

Saturday: 6:30 PM
Sunday: 10:15 AM

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Trouble in Paradise

Dear Friends in Christ,

You might say it was *his* church. Paul has spent three years in Ephesus, longer than any other congregation he served. But in his absence, problems arose. There was a rivalry between believers, between the Jewish and Gentile Christians. There arose problems of spiritual unfaithfulness, marital unfaithfulness and even spiritual warfare.

In the letter to the Ephesians, Paul reminds the believers that they are members of the church by God's grace, predestined to heirs of the kingdom of God from before the foundation of the world. They have become a new creation in Christ Jesus. He then encourages them:

"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call-- one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift." (Ephesians 4:1-7 ESV)

What is true for the Ephesians is also true for us. We have our divisions, not exactly the same as the Ephesians but items that separate us. Our recent survey revealed that all of us are sensitive to the conflict within our church. And what a lot people might say is even more discouraging, many people feel they are only going through the motions during worship.

Yes, we have challenges before us. But we also have, "One body and one Spirit...one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all." The survey indicated that we are not theologically diverse, but united in belief. It showed that a majority of us believe significant change is necessary for the congregation to move forward. And that's good news. Because when we see change is necessary, we are willing to be part of it.

By the time you receive this issue of the Bells, it is my hope that you have from the Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute a better picture of what we, you and I, need to do to transform. There are some specific things just for me as pastor, but there are also things we need to do as a congregation. It cannot be just me, or just the council, all of us must "walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Our heavenly Father has given us the grace to be His children. Our Lord Jesus Christ has shown us the manner in which we live as brothers and sisters in Him. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to walk in this New Creation. Let us go forth in the name of Christ to do the good works that has been prepared for us.

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor Michael

PRINCE OF PEACE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Come join us Sunday mornings starting on September 13th at 9AM for a new year of Christian learning and fellowship! Look for your Sunday School forms in your mailbox and on the Narthex table, after completing them please return to Jeff Doerr or email your name(s) and the class you will be attending to: jeffdoerr@zoominternet.net.

“MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD” is the theme for the Rally Day picnic on September 13, 2015 following worship service. Bring any musical instrument and words for your favorite camp song. Hot dogs, sauerkraut, kielbasa and drinks will be provided. Sign up sheets for hot dog buns, sausage rolls and sides are posted in the preschool hall. Contact Ethel Clayton for information 724-774-7188.

KIDZ KLUB

POP's youth group will be starting back on Thursday, September 10! Please remember to wear comfortable clothing and tennis shoes. Our schedule for the evening is as follows:

6:00 – 6:15	Opening Prayer
6:15 – 6:30	Dinner
6:30 – 7:00	Games
7:00 – 7:30	Lesson
7:30	Closing Prayer

For more info, see Eric Bendekovic or contact him at (ebendekovic@aol.com). Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE!! This year POP is going to host a fall festival on Saturday, October 3rd, from noon to 4:00 p.m. We'll need lots of volunteers to handle games, decorations and refreshments. Stay tuned for more information.

MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH (Missouri Synod), 2679 Darlington Road, Beaver Falls, PA, is seeking an organist to play two liturgical services each Sunday morning plus Holy Days. Those interested may contact Pastor Eric Ash at 724-843-0952 or rev.ericash@gmail.com.

ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES: We have just a few openings left for our 2 fall Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends—September 18-20 at the beautiful Spruce Lake Retreat in the Poconos and October 16-18 at the lovely Heritage Hotel Lancaster in Lancaster, PA. Strengthen and enrich your marriage by spending a weekend devoted to your couple relationship! Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included with your registration fee plus a contribution of whatever amount you wish to make at the end of the weekend. To register, simply go to the website: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and sign up, or for questions or if you would like to register offline, contact PA Lutheran Marriage Encounter directors, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or email: fjschamber@comcast.net.

**September Birthdays
and Anniversaries**

Birthdays

Lawrie Borgman	2
Joseph Meinert	4
Betty Wunnenberg	4
Mary Dietrich	10
Dan Bretheim	10
Alicia Fessides	14
Timothy Nord	15
Lynn Gunther	17
Alice Davis	22
Joslyn Mesing	25
Larry Weimer	25
Ron Doerr	27
Jennifer Ciccone	29

Baptismal Birthdays

Faye Brockmiller	
Carol Helkowski	
Tom Merkle	
Edna Gaertner	1
Erik Doerr	3
Linda Weimer	8
Brittany Rodman	13
Ruth Rose	14
Trevor Mesing	15
Betty Wunnenberg	22
Adriana Ciccone	29
Maggie Dietrich	29

Anniversaries

Mike & Joanie Gremer	3
James & Helen Nord	20
Ed & Sandi Morgan	28
Doug & Tammy Eckstrom	29

Servants in Ministry

Greeter

- 6 – Stephan/Mirka Fatschel
- 13 – Doug/Tammy Eckstrom
- 20 – George/Joleen Mesing
- 27 – Robin Young/Brittany Rodman

Reader

- 6 – Doug Eckstrom
- 13 – Ron Doerr
- 20 – Tom Sigler
- 27 – Mary Nuerge

Acolyte

- 6 – Jase Wilson
- 13 – Carrick Skuse
- 20 – Sophia Fatschel
- 27 – Tyler Borgman

Altar Guild

Linda Weimer/Amy Wilson

Audio Visual

- 6 – Matthew Muto and Doug Eckstrom
- 13 – Stephan Fatschel and Mike Gremer
- 20 – Doug Eckstrom and Darryl Gunther
- 27 – Lynn Gunther and Doug Eckstrom

Prayer Concerns

Please keep the following members and friends in your prayers:

- Gene Reddel gall bladder removed.
- Continued prayers of healing for Twila DeThomas's stepfather and niece, Carl Blank, Zelda Parks and Willis Volland's sister, Betty Ann.
- Additional prayers for those battling cancer: Rich Kardos (Tom & Colleen Sigler's nephew), Bob Greer (youth leader at Darryl Gunther's former church), Mary Guthrie (wife of Darryl's co-worker), Carol Helkowski, Pastor Michael, Margaret Rombold, Milt Scott and Joan Doerr, who is undergoing treatment for brain cancer.

A Prayer Request box has been placed in the Narthex area where you can submit prayer requests for Pr. Michael to review.

John Rosemond's Bill of Rights for Children

Because it is the most character-building, two-letter word in the English language, children have the right to hear their parents say "NO" at least three times a day.

Children have the right to find out early in their lives that their parents don't exist to make them happy, but to offer them the opportunity to learn the skills they - children - will need to eventually make themselves happy.

Children have a right to scream all they want over the decisions their parents make, albeit their parents have the right to confine said screaming to certain areas of their homes.

Children have the right to find out early that their parents care deeply for them, but don't give a hoot what their children think about them at any given moment in time.

Because it is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, children have the right to hear their parents say "Because I said so" on a regular and frequent basis.

Because it is the most character-building activity a child can engage in, children have the right to share significantly in the doing of household chores.

Every child has the right to discover early in life that he isn't the center of the universe (or his family or his parents' lives), that he isn't a big fish in a small pond, that he isn't the Second Coming, and that he's not ever - in the total scheme of things - very important at all, no one is, so as to prevent him from becoming an insufferable brat.

Children have the right to learn to be grateful for what they receive; therefore, they have the right to receive all of what they truly need and very little of what they simply want.

Children have the right to learn early in their lives that obedience to legitimate authority is not optional, that there are consequences for disobedience, and that said consequences are memorable and, therefore, persuasive.

Every child has the right to parents who love him/her enough to make sure he/she enjoys all of the above rights.

A "Lifetime Plan for Giving" Provides Multiplying Impact

Generous people are attracted to the notion of giving twice. This can occur when a Christian steward structures an estate and financial plan that gives first to people they love and then to ministries they care about. It doesn't have to be an either or proposition. Family and ministry both benefit when you discover effective ways to provide for your loved ones and the Lord's Work - such a plan multiplies the impact of your gifts.

Putting one's affairs in order can be a daunting task. There are important issues to know. "Should I give lump sums? Income benefits? Or both?" "How much control should I retain on the (cont...)

(...cont) management of estate gifts?" "Do I need a will or revocable living trust?" "How do I know that my beneficiary designations are effectively structured for cost and tax conservation?" "What about durable powers of attorney?" "Why might I want to take a closer look at tools freely available to me - charitable trusts, charitable gift annuities or donor advised funds?"

These and other questions can be explored in a confidential and trustworthy way as you discover your own "Lifetime Plan for Giving". If you are including your congregation or other LCMS ministries in your plan, learn options to protect your intended purposes, claim tax benefits and increase the impact of your generosity.

Start by asking God's will for how He would have you structure your lifetime plan to bless your God-given family and further His earthly work. Share your faith as a part of your estate plan. Discover what tools and techniques are right for you as you look at material facts with spiritual stewardship eyes.

Create a "Lifetime Plan for Giving" that blesses family and ministry. Ask an LCMS professionally trained guide to help. *For more information contact Robert Wirth, LCMS Foundation Gift Planner @ robert.wirth@lfnd.org or 716-863-4427.*

The Lutheran Hour—September Sermon Schedule

Unless otherwise indicated Rev. Seltz is the weekly Lutheran Hour Speaker.

September 2015

September 6

"God's Grand Opening"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

God opens hearts to new life and new opportunities, through faith in Christ.
(Mark 7:31-37)

September 13

"There is Something More"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

God has something more in store for all who put their faith in Him.
(Isaiah 50:4-10)

September 20

"Tradition, Tradition, Tradition"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

What role do traditions play in our relationships to God and each other?
(Mark 7:1-13)

September 27

"Free, Indeed"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus

When our sins and guilt stick to us like glue, Jesus makes us unstuck.
(John 8:34-36)

September 2015

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	3 6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	4	5 6:30 Holy Communion
6 15 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	7	8 6:30 Council	9 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	10 6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	11	12 9:00-11:00 Mens Club 6:30 Holy Communion
13 16 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion Rally Day Picnic	14	15	16 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	17 6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	18	19 6:30 Holy Communion
20 17 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	21	22	23 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	24 6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	25	26 6:30 Holy Communion
27 18 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion Voter's Mtg	28	29	30 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 7:00 Elders			