



The Epistle

July 2009

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The Pastor's Pen

This month's "Pastor's Pen" addresses something of a personal note. On July 24, I will undergo back surgery at York Hospital. As a number of you already know, I have been dealing with a chronic back condition for the past 3 & ½ years. My back has worsened to the point that surgery now presents me with the only treatment option offering any promise of successfully correcting this problem.

Looking at this challenge, a major concern of mine is the continuance of the pastoral ministry at St. Paul's during my surgery and recovery. The doctors have told me to plan on a 4-day hospital stay followed by a 6-week

recuperation period. I am working with our Synod staff to arrange pastoral coverage for Sunday services and for visitation, hospital calls and other pastoral care.

The good news is that undergoing surgery at this time, the less active months of summer, allows for a lesser amount of disruption to our congregation's ministry. We are blessed with a wonderful staff and congregational leadership who I know will keep things running smoothly in my absence. If all goes well and no complications arise, I will be "back in action" by Rally Day on September 13. This timetable also permits us to commit to hosting another seminarian in

the Fall, an outreach ministry of St. Paul's which I believe blesses us as much as it does our seminarians.

Naturally, this sort of thing causes anxiety for all. I ask for your prayers throughout this time. Let us bear in mind the words of our patron, St. Paul: "*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*" (Philippians 4:6-7)

In Christ,

Pastor Stellhorn





Birthdays in July

Jan Sweigart	7/1	Elena Yingling	7/11	Sara Lawyer	7/23
Michael DeGroft	7/2	Diane CaVanaugh	7/12	Virginia Weaver	7/24
April Howard	7/4	Beverly Boyd	7/13	Ayleen Stellhorn	7/24
Earl Colestock	7/5	Ben Messinger	7/13	Josephine Reindollar	7/25
Donna Study	7/5	Ruth Ann Peart	7/14	Melony Leidy	7/25
Sherri Plattenburg	7/7	Jacqueline Murren	7/16	Lisa Sheeringer	7/27
Ron Baird	7/9	Ronnie Jones	7/18	Hailey Jemison	7/28
Adam Beach	7/9	Cammi McCall	7/18	Abby Jemison	7/30
Wayne Friedel	7/9	Debbie Trask	7/19	Jim Kindig	7/30
		Matthew Bush	7/21	Phyllis Null	7/30
		Erin Townsend	7/22	Geoffrey Tolbert	7/30
		Karen Kopp	7/23		

Anniversaries in July

Paul & Evelyn Little	7/1		Lisa & Jeff Sheeringer	7/11
Chris & Teresa Aulthouse	7/4		Harry & Irene Wildasin	7/20
Greg & Shirley Fetchko	7/11		Larry & Dolores Zepp	7/24
			Ernie & Diana Spamer	7/26

Worship Assistants for July

Counters	Sharri Plattenburg, Jeff Plattenburg*, Ken & Linda Smith, Mark Sweigart*			
Communion Helpers	Jeff Plattenburg* & Mark Sweigart*			
Altar Guild	Sherry Rijppman & Jeannette Howard			
	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
Lectors	Marietta Witt	Mel Leidy	Abby Schwartz	Ruth Pautenis
Greeters	Gary & Sue Strevig	Debi, Tom, Hannah, Hailey, Abbey & Sam Jemison	Millie & Fern Bachman	Outdoor Service
Ushers – 8:00	Fern Bachman Millie Bachman	Ken Smith Linda Smith	Barry Cluck Loretta Cluck	Outdoor Service
Ushers – 10:15	Bob Palmer Karen Palmer Clyde Keilholtz Larry Zepp*	Don Snyder* Mike Cutsail Bob Snyder Regina Snyder	Wayne Carter* Jon Carter Barb Sentz Mel Leidy	Mark Sweigart* Tracy Schwartz* Ed Windisch Theresa Windisch*
Acolytes	Owen Yingling	TBA	Amanda Caples	Outdoor Service
Nursery Helpers	Judi & Sarah Schumaker	Barb & Emily Schwartz	Robin & Jessica Caples	Outdoor Service

Perfect Attendance for May

Preschool Class

Janiah Crouse
Nate Holt
Samuel Jemison
Jarrett Hall
Logan Lanning

Grade 1-3

Abby Jemison
Janet Cutsail
Jeannette Howard

Grade 4-6

Hannah Jemison
Jan Sweigart
Mark Sweigart

Confirmation Class

Charlie Bein
Eddie Windisch

Senior High

Jessica Caples
Melissa Caples



Musical Notes



During the month of **July** we continue through the season of Pentecost. Special music this month will enhance the 10:15 services by Roxann Kline, Casey Miller and Rich Burnette. On the 19th, we will be having a **contemporary worship** service at the 10:15 service and on the 26th we will have only **one worship service at the community park beginning at 10:15 and the congregational picnic to follow.**

MUSIC

Summer months are here and we are still looking for people who wish to share their gifts of music. Please sign up to provide **special music** on the sheet by the choir room. If you have any questions please contact Ben Messinger at 359-4556 or benmessinger@comcast.net.

NEWS YOU NEED

Outdoor Service

The Outdoor Service will take place at 10:15 AM on July 26. There will **not** be an 8:00 AM service or Sunday School that Sunday. Please bring lawn chairs, tablecloths, and a covered dish! Pastor Craig Lantz will provide his ministry of "Magic & Parables" during the service and balloon animals during the games.



Seminarian News: Our former seminarian Kelley Baxter has been called as Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church
277 W. Pine Grove Road
Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868

Pastor Baxter will be ordained Saturday, July 18, 2009!



Food Pantry picnic takes place Wednesday, August 26 noon at Christ UCC's grove. Volunteers and family are all Invited. Skip Messinger will provide his famous kettle roasted chicken!

NEWS YOU NEED CONTINUED

Red Cross Blood Drive



American
Red Cross

Together, we can save a life

The Littlestown Ministerium Blood Drive will take place **HERE** at St. Paul's on Wednesday, July 15 from 1:00-7:00 PM. All donors must be in generally good health, be at least 17 years of age, weigh no less than 110 pounds, have not received a tattoo within the past year, and have not donated whole blood within the past 56 days. Please call the Nurse of the Day Office at 1-800-272-2048 with eligibility questions in regards to medications and travel out of the country, Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM. **Please call 1-800-448-3543 to schedule your lifesaving donation!** Walk-ins will be accepted, but please schedule your appointment ahead of time so they know how many nurses and donation stations to have available. *To learn more about donating please see the bulletin board by the back entrance to the church.*

TOGETHER **WE** PREPARE



YBS

Studio GO! VBS 2009! Many thanks to the wonderful men & women from St. Paul's & St. John's who helped contribute to the success of the program. We are truly blessed to have so many caring people who are lead by the Holy Spirit to come together each year to bring these programs to life. We averaged 31 kids per night. It wasn't all fun and games, though, as were reminded that there are people in our own community that need our help. To relieve some of that suffering, the staff encouraged the children to GO! Help the Littlestown Food Pantry by bringing non-perishable food items and monetary donations. We had a great response and encourage everyone reading this to GO! Serve the Risen Lord! Jan & Mark Sweigart.

WRAP-UP

22nd Annual Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly

Assembly action...

Elected Bruce E. Seagrist as volunteer treasurer of the Lower Susquehanna Synod. Seagrist is a member of Trindle Spring Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg, and a Certified Public Accountant.

Adopted by a narrow margin, 285 to 280, a memorial from the Harrisburg Conference asking the ELCA Church wide Assembly, when it meets in August for its assembly in Minneapolis, to adopt the proposed ELCA Social Statement on Human Sexuality.

Defeated a memorial asking the ELCA Church wide Assembly to adopt the four parts of the proposed Recommendation on Ministry Policies when it meets in assembly.

Adopted a request from the South York Conference asking the ELCA Church wide Assembly to require a two-thirds vote by the assembly to adopt any change in the ELCA's current policy and practice for its clergy and other rostered leaders.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY WRAP UP CONTINUED

Adopted a memorial affirming the ELCA Strategy for Engagement in the Middle East and asking for balance in implementing that strategy.

Adopted a resolution encouraging the synod, its congregations, and their members to commit to lifestyles that contribute to the health of the environment and to tithe environmentally by reducing waste by ten percent.

Adopted a 2010 synod budget of \$3,995,650 with 50 percent of that amount going to the church-wide expression of the ELCA for churchwide ministries.

Adopted a memorial urging the ELCA to study the reasons why persons of color or of primary language other than English have not been ushered into full leadership in this church and to take corrective actions to encourage these person to assume full leadership. This memorial also directs the ELCA to formulate a model of reconciliation that could be used to confront racism.

Recognition of good and faithful servants...

The assembly honored four pastors who have served the Lutheran church for fifty years—The Rev. Richard H. Englund, East Berlin; the Rev. Walter L. Hafer Jr., Harrisburg; the Rev. Karl J. Mattson, Gettysburg; and the Rev. Robert Seibold, Shippensburg.

Ordination...

The Service of Word and Sacrament with Rite of Ordination was a highlight of the assembly as the Rev. Barbara Ann Barry was welcomed to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA.

Pastor Barry has been called as pastor of Quickel Lutheran Church, York. She is currently a member of Luther Memorial Lutheran Church in Blacksburg, Virginia. She served her internship at Trinity Lutheran Church, Camp Hill. She has two children, Stephanie Fairbank Stell and Kristen Barry Pond.

Installations...

The Rev. David R. Fisher of Lancaster was installed Friday evening as assistant to the bishop for evangelical mission. Also installed was the Rev. Clifton D. Eshbach, Lancaster, as assistant to Bishop B. Penrose Hoover.

Newly-elected officers of the Lutheran Youth Organization were installed at Friday's luncheon banquet. Installed were Sarah Embley, president, (Trinity Lutheran Church, Mt Joy), Stephanie Strauss, director of service and outreach (St. Peter Lutheran Church, Highspire), and Paige Harrell (Paradise Lutheran Church, Thomasville, director of LYO communications.

Ministry Moments...

Voting members and visitors heard highlights from several synod ministry partners including the Lutheran Camping Corporation, the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, the Criminal Justice System Ministry Network, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Council of Churches. All partners thanked this synod for its partnership in making Christ known throughout central Pennsylvania and the world.

This synod's Global Mission Committee showed a video of Missionary Richard Starker's work in India. The committee asked congregations in the synod to support the work of missionary Starker through prayer and financial donations.

Assembly offering...

The assembly offering was designated one half for student scholarships at Manow Lutheran Secondary School in the Konde Diocese in Tanzania and one half to the Bishop's Congregational Mission Fund.

Visitors from Tanzania...

The bishop of the Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and two pastors from the diocese were in attendance at the assembly. Bishop Israel Peter Mwakyolile, the Rev. Edward Johnson Mwaikali, and the Rev. Dr. Gwamaka Ephram Mwankenya led a forum and assisted at several of the worship events throughout the weekend.

The Lower Susquehanna Synod and the Konde Diocese have been in a companion relationship since 1990; the synod and the diocese refer to each other as "Companions in Christ." Over the years this relationship has provided opportunity to mutually participate in the life of another church through prayer, study, communication, and exchange of pastors, leaders, visitors and resources.