



St. Paul's News



Pastor's Corner

By Pastor Dave Heckler

In Marvel Comics lore, Loki, the Norse god of mischief, illusion, and deceit, is fond of introducing himself by saying, "I'm burdened with glorious purpose." For Loki, this is a tagline he uses to promote himself in the eyes of others; in fact, Loki's mostly burdened with resentment (toward his brother Thor and his stepfather Odin), a lust for power and domination, and a boatload of vainglorious manure. (It's why one of the most theologically satisfying scenes in all of Marvel moviedom is when the Hulk seizes Loki by the ankles during one of Loki's vain pontifications and thrashes him the way my dog Mädchen used to thrash her chew toys, finally tossing him aside while muttering "Puny god!")

But I find myself pondering this phrase a lot these days when I consider our current American struggles with our identity, history, and self-perception. We believe ourselves to be a nation of high and even sacred ideals— "all men are created equal", "one nation under God, with liberty and justice for all", etc. During the third of the publicly televised House Select Committee Hearings on the Jan. 6, 2021 Insurrection, no less than three speakers (including the co-chair of the committee) testified to their belief that the Constitution was "divinely inspired" on a par with Holy Scripture— so when I use the word "sacred", I'm not overstating the case. Indeed, the inscription on the Liberty Bell is a quote from Leviticus 25.10; and quite a few early European settlers in North America interpreted their journeys and settlements as a new expression of the Israelites' wilderness journeys and settlement of the Promised Land, often blurring the distinction between their metaphor and their reality. Our American self-perception is steeped in a sense of "glorious purpose", "manifest destiny", and the like...

But do we actually measure up to these high ideals?

That's been our challenge from the earliest days of our national history— and more often than not, even as we've celebrated those ideals and claimed them as our own, we've hedged on them to secure our own power, privilege, and wealth. "All men are created equal," Thomas Jefferson penned in the Declaration of Independence; but at the time the Constitution was written, well, slaves (usually black or brown people) were counted as only 60% of a person and not allowed to vote, and women weren't even mentioned (and weren't allowed to vote either). Even when the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment outlawed slavery in the United States, the door to slavery was left open just enough for Jim Crow laws, mass incarceration, "chain gangs", lynchings, and the like to persist well into the late 20th century (and let's be honest, well into the 21st century too). The Equal Rights Amendment has been properly ratified by 38 states, thus making it part of the U.S. Constitution— but no one in authority has dared to proclaim that reality as a statement of fact and law. My own lifetime has been shaped by movements promoting workers' rights, civil rights for people of color, voting rights for all citizens, women's rights, LGBTQIA+ rights, and immigrants' rights; but even as I've seen those rights campaigned for and courageously advanced, I've also seen (and am seeing) almost all of those rights being beaten backward and/or stealthily subverted— often by professing Christians and supposedly in the name of Christ. (I know, I shouldn't be surprised. The very Jubilee year instituted in the Mosaic Law in Leviticus 25— a year in which all debts were to be written off, all slaves set free, and all ancestral lands returned to their original owners— was never actually lived out in practice, since clearly all these liberations would be bad news for the wealthy and powerful.) We **claim** to live up to high ideals— but from the very beginning, we've hedged on those ideals and made excuses for why we can't live up to them, as though we were indeed "burdened" with our "glorious purpose" and can't wait to get that swollen sack of blessings for the world off our backs and into the dumpster. (Or we've chosen to live in patriotic denial, claiming those ideals as our reality even as we subvert them with our policies.)

I have to admit, this reality often gets me down— but then I remember where those high ideals we claim as our own came from. Even if Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton, and others were trying to sanctify their political and economic causes with sacred language, they were getting that language from the Scriptures, through which the God who really *is* filled (through I wouldn't say "burdened") with glorious purpose was speaking. The prophets of old challenged "the powers that be" of their days with the justice of God that transcended the letter of the Law and the proprieties of public piety; our Lord Jesus proclaimed and lived out God's glorious purpose in His life, death, and resurrection, the coming of the Reign of God "on earth as it is in heaven", in His welcome of every sort of outcast and sinner; the apostle Paul brilliantly describes this glorious plan in Ephesians 1.10: "to bring all creation together, everything in heaven and on earth, with Christ as head" [GNT]; and the book of Revelation reminds us that God won't rest until that purpose comes to its full fruition among us! Even when "moral majorities" of people are hellbent on fighting against that purpose, even when human political duplicity is at its most evident, God

Continued on Next Page

Pastor's Corner Continued

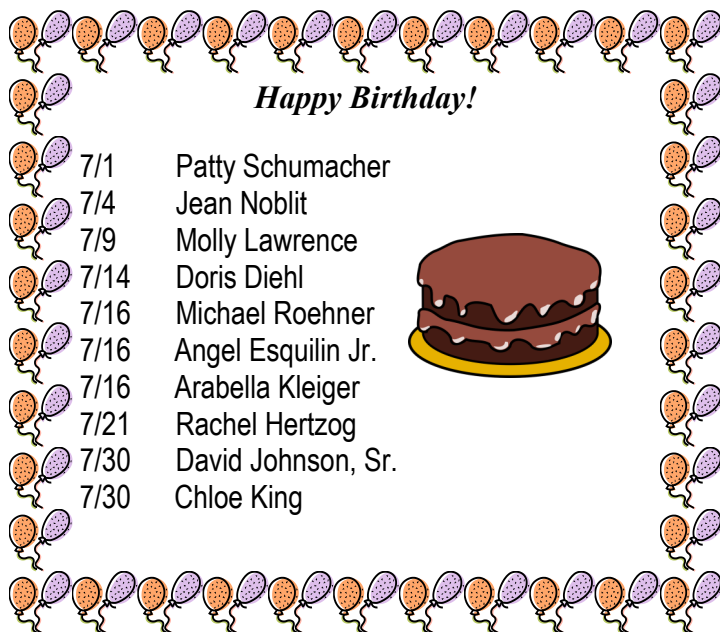
By Pastor Dave Heckler

is at work in and through a tenaciously compassionate, faithful minority to raise God's purpose up, to insist that it take shape for all who are marginalized and beaten down, and to struggle and work and pray to embody and realize God's purpose not "in the sweet by-and-by", but in the here and now, so that *all* people might know God's love and their inherent dignity and worth as children of God.

As disciples of Christ Jesus, baptized into union with Christ and into God's grand Ephesians 1.10 purpose, we're called to be part of that tenaciously compassionate, faithful minority, that "conscience of the state" [Martin Luther King Jr.] that authentically embodies the love of Christ Jesus in the world around us and challenges "the powers that be" to live out and live up to the ideals we as a nation say we embrace. And as sinners as well as saints, that call to discipleship is often going to make us very uncomfortable. It may make us feel like aliens in our own homeland [Hebrews 11.8-16; Luke 9.57-58] and cost us a great deal of social (and other) capital; it may frustrate some around us to the point of violence; and it certainly won't make us popular. It's much easier to carry around the brand name of Jesus while avoiding the potency of the Spirit's fruit of that name. But in these challenging days when retrenchment and authoritarianism are back in style, that discipleship, that participation in the grand purpose of God in Christ Jesus, is more important than ever. And no matter how weak or insignificant we consider ourselves, God's purpose *will* come to fruition in, with, under, and through us in Christ Jesus our Lord!

Yours in Christ Jesus our Lord, *Pr. Dave*

Happy Birthday!



7/1	Patty Schumacher
7/4	Jean Noblit
7/9	Molly Lawrence
7/14	Doris Diehl
7/16	Michael Roehner
7/16	Angel Esquilin Jr.
7/16	Arabella Kleiger
7/21	Rachel Hertzog
7/30	David Johnson, Sr.
7/30	Chloe King

DON'T FORGET TO ...

1. Save your Redner's receipts and place in the envelope on the Narthex Bulletin Board. This is a simple way to financially help St. Paul's.

2. Save your aluminum tabs from Soda Cans, Soup Cans, etc. and give to Todd Silvius for the Ronald McDonald House.

3. If you have e-mail; sign up for the Electronic version of the newsletter by e-mailing us at stpaulsqtown@gmail.com.



July's "Monthly Special": Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services

Our "Monthly Specials" and "Noisy Offerings" are special opportunities for giving to help specific ministries in our community and beyond—some of them through the Lutheran church, others through the community organizations. **For July, our Monthly Special Recipient is Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.** For 83 years, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) has offered welcome and hope to more than half a million refugees. Since 1939, LIRS has transformed lives, with the support of people like you, to welcome the most vulnerable to the United States—from sea to shining sea. Together we've supported, equipped, and empowered these new Americans while advocating for policy that protects all of God's children. Please give as you're able!





Health Ministry Survey Update



Thank you to everyone who completed the Health Ministry Survey – job well done!
If you haven't had an opportunity yet to complete the Health Ministry Survey, please do, we need your input. Remember this is strictly confidential – we do not see ANY email addresses, only your responses.

The results are in, let me share some of your thoughts.

With an average of 70% or higher from all responses & categories here are the top four areas of interest.

#1 – score of 85.7%

Peer Pressure / Bullying (Teen Health)

#2 – score of 83.3%

General Wellness (Men's Health)

Heart Health & Stroke (Men's Health)

#3 – score of 77.8%

Walking Programs (Wellness Programs)

#4 – score of 75%

Depression (Mental Health)

Anxiety (Mental Health)

Aging Concerns (Mental Health)

Retirement (Working thru Life)

#5 – score of 71.4%

Staying Healthy (Women's Health)

Substance Use / Abuse (Teen Health)

Body Image – Teen Health (Teen Health)

God bless & thank you again for participating
Rose Sutkins – Numbers 6:23-26

"The Hand of God Shall Hold You..."



One of the great blessings of life in union with Christ is that the risen Christ binds us in holy and eternal communion with all His people who've *died*, enabling us to grieve in the freedom born of knowing that our loved ones are gone from our sight and for a time, but still joined with us in the body of Christ and alive in Him in far more than memory alone. So far in 2022, we've also said farewell (for now) to *Joseph Ricca, Chris Young, Bob, Liam, and Patrick King, Mary Ziegenfuss, Russell Stier, Dawn Gilbert, Paul Stepanoff, Karen Capella, JoAnn Spait, Karin Silviu, Mark Bilger, George Kirk Hansen, and Pr Susan Lynch*. Please keep their grieving families and friends in your prayers in these days ahead, that they may come through the dark night of their grief into the resurrection joy born of their Baptismal union with Christ Jesus our risen Lord.



Family Drive-In Movies at Christ's Lutheran, Trumbauersville

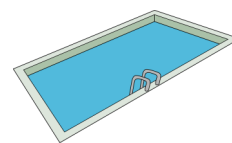
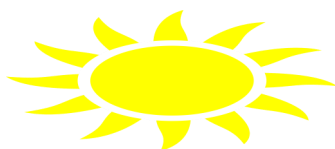
Our brothers and sisters at Christ's Lutheran Church in Trumbauersville are once again presenting **free drive-in family movies** in their parking lot every Friday evening at sunset. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, etc. and enjoy! Popcorn is served up for free; other snacks are also available at a small cost. (Each week they'll also be collecting canned food for their F.E.A.S.T. Pantry! Thanks for your support!) Here's the schedule of movies for this summer:

Date	Movie Title
July 8	Goosebumps 2
July 29	Hotel Transylvania 3
Aug. 12	Frozen 2
Aug. 19	Big Hero 6



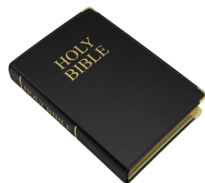
Vacation Bible School 2022: "Tree of Healing"

Mark **August 8-12** on your calendars! That's when we're planning to hold a **Quakertown Lutheran Cluster Vacation Bible School** for kids in kindergarten through grade 5. We'll be reflecting on God's "**Tree of Healing**" and gathering together either at St John's Lutheran in Richlandtown or Christ's Lutheran in Trumbauersville (or perhaps both). Our own Rose Sutkins is coordinating this effort along with Pr Dave. If you're interested in helping with VBS this summer, please get in touch with Rose Sutkins at 215.262.4782 or rsutkins@gmail.com as soon as possible so we can get moving with our planning (and be sure to get your clearances up to date). And keep your eyes on your bulletins for further updates and details on this VBS, including how to register.



Thursday Morning Bible Study

Come join us each week for our **Thursday Morning Bible Study** from **10:00 AM-12:00 NN** via Zoom or Free Conference Call! (See article below for instructions. For Zoom, use meeting ID number 370 014 7169 and passcode 119805.) We're "**Living with the Lectionary**", digging into the Scripture readings for the upcoming week to discover the treasures that await us come Sunday. You don't have to be a biblical "expert" to get a lot out of this study—so join us and invite your friends.



Order from Amazon? Benefit's St. Paul's!

Help support St. Paul's every time you shop at Amazon by bookmarking this link and using it when you shop at Amazon: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-6272047>. You will see an amazon log—in screen which states on the left .5% of all eligible purchases will be given to Saint Paul's Lutheran Church of Applebachsville. Sign in with your account/password and continue with your purchase and check out. The total donation by Amazon for all eligible purchases will be credited to the church's bank account on a quarterly basis. Once you register St. Paul's as your preferred charity, it becomes a part of your Amazon account and all future purchases will automatically be credited to the church. Any questions regarding this program can be directed to the Finance Committee or just use the information tabs on the Amazon site.

amazon.com

Like us on Facebook (and check us out online)!

Our church website: www.stpaulsqtown.org
 Our email address: stpaulsqtown@gmail.com
 Our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown
 Joyful Noise Facebook: www.facebook.com/joyfulnoiseatstpauls
 For daily Morning and Evening Prayer: <https://dailyoffice.wordpress.com/>

Scouts BSA Troop 007 News

We're so thankful for St Paul's welcome and support. But right now, there's one more thing we really need to continue to survive and hopefully, thrive: **We need more Scouts!** The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. If you know a parent or grandparent of kids from kindergarten to high school, encourage them to visit one of our Scout meetings on Thursday nights, or check us out at Scouts007.org.



Here are some of our upcoming activities:

July 4:	Quakertown Community Day, w/ activities to promote Scouting and the Troop
July 10-16:	Bayshore Summer Camp
Sept 10-12:	Camping at Treasure Island
Sept. 24	Harvest Festival at St. Paul's with Scout participation

Join Us Online via Zoom or Free Conference Call!

- ✦ If you'd like to participate in most of our activities taking place over **Zoom**, go to zoom.us, click "Join a Meeting" at the top right of the page, use meeting ID **370 014 7169**, and if it asks for a password, use **119805** and you should be in.
- ✦ If you're **using your phone**, these dial-in numbers will work to access Zoom: 929.205.6099 or 312.626.6799. After you dial, you'll be asked for the host's code, and you'll type in 370 014 7169, then 119805 and you're in. (What's more, with your smart phone or computer, you can engage video as well as audio, so we can see and hear you— something that's precious right now!) You can also use **Free Conference Call [FCC]**: Dial 857.232.0157, enter conference code 144261, and you're in.
- ✦ Even though our **Sunday morning Fellowship Hour** is being held in person again after worship, Patty Schumacher's making sure you can still join in, even if you can't join us in person! To do so, follow the instructions above for Zoom, but use meeting ID **839 381 0896** and passcode **90e8Dm**.
- ✦ And if you want to check out the latest announcements, you can find "**This Week at St Paul's**" on **Google Docs** at



docs.google.com/document/d/1aZi_IL0SHaQ1BOGFS_s3bt0oHoTQ4fCy9tO372PZioE/edit#

Supporting Our Ministries



Thanks for continuing to support our ministries here at St Paul's! Your tithes and offerings are much needed during this time. As of May 31, our congregation's expenses for 2022 have exceeded our income by \$12,000. We know that right now, funds are tight for everyone; but we encourage you to prayerfully consider how you might be able to support our ministry together. If you'd like to give electronically (via Simply Giving, our church website, or some other electronic means) and would like some information on how to do that, please contact the church office.

You can financially support our ministries in several ways: [1] If you're already signed up for **Simply Giving**, you're already taken care of; [2] You can **mail your offerings** to the church; and now [3] You can go to our church website (www.stpaulsqtown.org) and make your contributions online, even using a credit or debit card. Whatever way you choose, your contributions help us continue to serve our congregation and community and build upon the good things God's doing through us.

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

We extend our heartfelt **congratulations** to our **graduates** from high school and college:

From Quakertown Community High School, *Austin Hunsberger, Mervyn Brumbach, and Cameron Byelich;*

From Palisades High School, *Jessica Hallman;*

From Emmaus High School, *Jack Lawrence;*

From Kansas State University, *Lauren [Roehner] Keller;*

From East Stroudsburg University, *Christopher Hallman;*

From Northampton Community College, *Jack Schnabel.*



May God bless them in their ongoing learning and serving, that they and those they serve may together behold the wonders of God's grace anew each day! (And if we've inadvertently omitted anyone, please let us know at the church office— stpaulsqtown@gmail.com or 215.536.5789. We'll note them as soon as possible!)



Baptismal Anniversaries!

We rejoice to celebrate people's biological birthdays all the time, and rightly. But as wonderful as receiving the gift of life in this world is, receiving the gift of new and eternal life in Christ Jesus in our Baptism is even more wonderful (and best of all, it never grows old!). Why shouldn't we celebrate the anniversary of our new birth in Christ even more gladly?

*Benjamin Bauman, Emily Bryan, Jennifer Hallman, Amorita Johnson,
Gwen Pascoe, and Kelsey Shaak!*

July Worship News

Here at St Paul's, the month of July—and indeed, the summer months in general—are full of great worship opportunities. Come share in the joy of Christ's self-giving love in Word and Sacrament at these events:




- ✚ **Sundays in July:** We'll continue "the long green season" of Sundays after Pentecost with a more contemporary blended (and condensed) liturgy. And though our choir's "on vacation", we'll still have plenty of special music throughout the summer. (And don't worry about "dressing up"—while we'll have the air conditioning on, not even our worship leaders will be "robing up" throughout the summer.)
- ✚ Remember that we're sharing in worship and fellowship together **both in person and online**. As we gather **in person**, we're still doing our best to observe the COVID safety protocols of safe distancing and limited physical contact as we worship together; and we're encouraging those who feel the need for additional caution to wear facemasks as well. We're still making the pre-packaged wafer-and-grape juice Communion sets available for those who desire them—but we've also resumed sharing Holy Communion at the altar via "continuous Communion/ 'stations'", encouraging folks to come forward a pew at a time to ensure safer distancing. And we'll keep on "**livestreaming**" our worship services via Facebook Live and streaming the audio of our services via our Free Conference Call line (857.232.0157, conference code 144261).

No matter which service[s] you attend, you'll find them to be great events for the whole family. So don't just be a "spectator"—invite your friends, neighbors, and relatives to join you for these marvelous services, and come on out!

Fence Topper Fundraiser

We're selling antique cast-iron fence toppers from our church cemetery. These decorative pieces are about 150 years old; proceeds will benefit St Paul's and/or our local food pantries through Joyful Noise 9. A fence topper without an end goes for \$40; a fence topper with an end (that'll fit on a standard 1" iron pipe) is \$45. Checks can be made payable to "St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church".





HOPE GROWS!

BENEFIT AUCTION AND OPEN HOUSE

July 16th | 2PM – 6PM | Sunset Ridge Farm Perkasio

Hope Learning Center serves young adults on the autism spectrum


All proceeds benefit The Hope Fund and expansion plans for our students!





- Silent Auction
- Tours of HLC
- Interact with the Farm Animals
- Jessie's BBQ
- Planet Smoothie
- Yard Games
- Music
- Good Stuff Thrift Donation Drive

Items for purchase at the event:

- Smoothies | Planet Smoothie Doylestown
- Snack items
- Carrots to feed the alpacas
- Hug an alpaca photo
- Adopt an alpaca

Cash | Check | Venmo



Enjoy an afternoon at the farm and support HLC!

Pre-order Jesse's BBQ & pick it up at the event

View and bid on silent auction items

Tour the HLC facility and learn about the program

Bring items for our Good Stuff Thrift donation drive

Hope Learning Center serves young adults on the autism spectrum. Through group meetings, social events, coaching, and classes, we encourage growth in community, skills, and connections. As a result, these young adults are better equipped to successfully transition into their next chapter of life, whether that be college or a career, and experience greater independence and fulfillment.

We are a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax-deductible – a receipt will be provided.

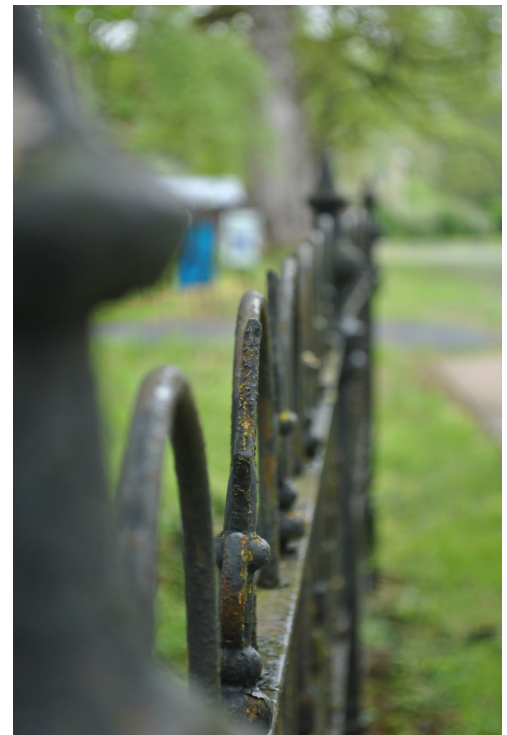
622 Blue School Road | Perkasio, PA | hopelearningcenterperkasio.org | 484-310-9191 | hlcperkasio@gmail.com

Finance News....

On Going Business:

1. **Vanguard Account Balances:** As of May 31, 2022 is \$108,808; April 30, 2022, balance is \$107,785.81; March 31, 2022, balance was \$114,411.33. Note stock market volatility.
- 2 **Income statement:** As of May 31, 2022, expenses for the year exceed income (**\$11,926.30**) April 30, 2022, expenses for the year exceed income (**\$11,542.13**); March 31, 2022 expenses for the year exceed income (**\$11,034.34**).
3. **Cemetery:** Account totals as of May 31, 2022, balance is \$93,974.85, include selling mower for \$4500; April 30, 2022, balance is \$90,507.22; March 31, 2022, balance was \$92,714.12.

Pictures Around our Beautiful Church



Sharing God's love in joyful service!

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church
837 Old Bethlehem Road
Quakertown, PA 18951

The St. Paul's News

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
of Applebachsville

837 Old Bethlehem Road
Quakertown, PA 18951

Pastor David Heckler

Church: 215-536-5789
stpaulsqtown@gmail.com www.stpaulsqtown.org

Each Member of the Congregation, Ministers



July 2022