

Paradise Corner

One of my favorite stories in the Bible is the story of the “Road to Emmaus.” (Emmaus here is the city seven miles from Jerusalem, not the one in Pennsylvania!) We find the story at Luke 24:13–35. The version I will tell here shortened is from the *Spark Story Bible* (Augsburg Fortress, 2009, pp. 488–491).



Three days after Jesus died, Cleopas and his friend were slowly walking down the road to Emmaus. They were walking slowly because they felt very sad. [...] After a while, a stranger began to walk along with them. The stranger was really Jesus, but Cleopas and his friend didn't know it.

“What are you talking about?” the stranger asked. The men looked at each other. “Are you the only person in town who doesn't know what just happened?” they asked. They told the stranger what had happened to Jesus. “Jesus was a great teacher,” Cleopas said. “We hoped he was the one God promised would save the world, but instead he died on a cross! [...] This morning, our friends went to the tomb, but Jesus' body was gone! They said there was an angel there instead! The angel told our friends, ‘Jesus is alive,’ but...”

“Stop being silly!” the stranger said. “How many times do you need to hear this? It was God's plan for Jesus to die and become alive again to save the world!”

By now, they were almost to Emmaus. Cleopas invited the stranger to stay for dinner. During dinner, the stranger picked up a loaf of bread, broke it, blessed it, and gave each man a piece. All of a sudden, Cleopas and his friend recognize the stranger. It was Jesus, but then Jesus disappeared! Cleopas and his friend jumped up, ran from the room, and went to tell the rest of Jesus' disciples that Jesus really was alive!

I believe this story can help us when we feel the despair of having lost hope. That is a feeling that makes us sad. Part of the challenge, of course, is that we live in a world that—as Jesus pretended—does not know the story of God's plan to save the world. We live together as ones who gather around that story—in Word of God and in the Holy Meal. And—it is simply because of that story that we have hope in the midst of the confusion around us.

I also believe that one way to help settle the confusion is to work together with one another. This first involves spending time (as Cleopas and his companion did), but it goes beyond that to contributing our gifts (particularly time and talent) to the work of God. Cleopas and his companion did this too in the making of the meal they shared with Christ. The result, of course, was that their willingness to share helped inform all the friends of Jesus.

When we work together, even though we may feel confused and disoriented, we actually are not. God's plan to save the world has already saved us and invites us to help others join in the excitement that Jesus really is alive.

Pastor Scott Paradise

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

417 Howertown Road
Catasauqua, Pennsylvania 18032
www.stpaulscatasauqua.com
Email: stpaulschurch@rcn.com
Phone: 610-264-3221 Fax: 610-264-5732
Child Care: 610-264-0190

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:00 am: Holy Communion
10:30 am: Holy Communion

Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday: 9:00am-3:00pm

Sunday School

9:00 am

Child Care Center

Monday through Friday 7:00am-5:30pm

Church Staff:

Pastor: The Rev. Scott J. Paradise
Pastor Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Hartland Gifford
Director of Music: Christine Paradise
Office Administrator: Lori Adams
Treasurer: Paul Peters
Financial Secretary: Debbie Stewart
Child Care Director: Debra Hessinger
Child Care Assistant Director: Amanda Fritz
Sunday School Supt.: Denise Reiner
Sexton: Robert Crogan

2017-2018 Congregation Council

Debbie Frey	June Hahn
Bob Bastian	Paula Kesack
Cindy Schaller	Robin Ruch
Len Witt	

All active St. Paul members: in order to keep your membership up-to-date, please remember to complete and return a Holy Communion card (at least once a year) as a record of your Communion. Cards are located in the pews and completed card can be placed in the offering plate. Also, please remember to use your offering envelopes or put your envelope number on your offering checks as a record of your giving. If you haven't had offering envelopes assigned to you, please contact the church office.

If you would prefer to receive the monthly *Epistle* via email, please contact the church office.

Happening at St. Paul's

Child Care Center News



April, the month of showers and sunshine, has arrived! We love the days filled with sunshine and warmth because this means the children get to go outside to run and play. There is nothing better than being able to get our energy out and enjoy fresh air. The children will enjoy going on walks through town so they can look at the changes in the trees, plants, and grass. They also like to look for birds, squirrels, rabbits, and neighborhood pets. Throughout the month, the classrooms will learn about rain and discuss the important role it plays for the environment. They will sing songs about raindrops and make crafts like umbrellas and rain clouds. We will also celebrate Earth Day this month by helping to take care of our classroom plants.

A friendly reminder to all that Hickory Grove flower/plant sales end on the 22nd of this month. Thank you in advance to everyone who participates in this fundraiser!

Wishing everyone a beautiful spring!

Debbie Hessinger & Amanda Fritz
Child Care Director & Assistant Child Care Director



April 2018
Choir Practices Thursday
7:00 PM in the choir room

April 12th & April 26th

Interested in joining our choir?
Contact Christine Paradise at 610.443.2121

PASTA DINNER

April 14, 2018 4:00 PM-7:00 PM in
Fellowship Hall

Adults: \$10.00

Ages 14-5: \$5.00

Age under 5: Free



JOIN US FOR A SPAGHETTI DINNER TO BENEFIT TURNING POINT FOR WOMEN

Spaghetti
Dinner



Saturday, May 12 between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.

Saint Paul's Fellowship Hall

ALL DONATIONS WILL BE WELCOME

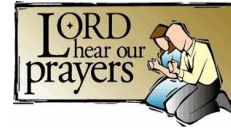
If you can contribute #9 spaghetti or a homemade dessert, please tell
Cindy Schaller, Debbie Frey, or Paula Kesack.

Watch for more details in next month's Epistle and weekly bulletins.



Hospital Visits: If you or someone you know is admitted to the hospital or rehabilitation facility, it is very important to notify the church as soon as possible. You can do this by either calling the church office directly or inform the hospital upon admittance that you are a member of St. Paul's and they will list you under our Pastoral Code 312.

Please keep in your prayers this month:
Rená Ackerman, John Bechtold, Ralph DeWalt [brother of Betty Rabenold], Linda Dunkel and her mother Frances [friends of Keri Burrows], Jill Hersh, Robert Kulp, Jr., LeeAnn Miller, Joanne Mooney, Carolyn Schleicher, and Janet Searfass.



Saint Paul's is pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account. Our new electronic giving program offers **convenience** for you and much-needed donation **consistency** for our congregation.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. (This is also safer than carrying cash to church.) You can also set up a different frequency (monthly, biweekly, etc.) if you give according to such a schedule. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

You would still be able to participate in the collection of the offering if you desire. Write "I give electronically" on the outside of an envelope and place it in the offering plate, or contact the church office to request "I give electronically" cards to drop in the offering plate.

These secure donation services, which Saint Paul's is receiving without the normal start-up fees for the first year, are provided by Vanco Services, LLC. Vanco processes electronic donations for thousands of churches and nonprofit organizations.

To learn more, please contact the church office (stpaulschurch@rcn.com or 610.264.3221) or go to our website (www.stpaulscatasauqua.com) for the link to register.

May Epistle

Last day to submit items: Friday, April 20
Epistle Volunteers: Friday, April 27

If you would like to put an article or announcement in our newsletter, please email your articles to stpaulschurch@rcn.com. You can also get our *Epistle* newsletter by email (just call the church office). Don't forget to check out Saint Paul's Facebook page and our website: www.stpaulscatasauqua.com.



Catasauqua Food Bank Needs:

Canned Soup, Fruit & Vegetables. Cereal, Spaghetti noodles, Spaghetti sauce, Rice & Noodle Mixes, Fruit cups, and Juice Boxes. Drop off your donations in the shopping basket in the church narthex.

Miller Keystone Blood Center is always in need of all blood types. ! Thank You to **JoAnn Staller** for her faithful donations!



Bring in your used **printer and fax machine cartridges!** We trade them in and receive a Staple s store credit of \$2 for every print cartridge.

St. Paul's is part of Daku's Auto Body Shop's Give Back Program

Every time one of our members has work done on their vehicle they just have to ask to have 1% of the total bill donated to St. Paul's.

Daku's Auto Body Shop
1135 Howertown Road,
Catasauqua, PA 18032

Serving

Assisting Ministers for April 2018

Date	Lector	Acolytes	Communion Assistants	Altar Guild
4/1/2018 Easter Sunday	8:00 AM Pat Gerber 10:30 AM n/a	8:00 AM Amanda Mathis 10:30 AM Allison Mengel Jack Mengel	8:00 AM Len Witt Robert Bastian 10:30 AM Denise Reiner Helene sterner	8:00 AM
4/8/2018	10:30 AM Judy Donchez	8:00 AM Olivia Burnett 10:30 AM Tiffany Crogan	8:00 AM Pat Gerber Lew Heller 10:30 AM Laurie Perna	8:00 AM 10:30 AM
4/15/2018	10:30 AM Latta Heil	8:00 AM Zachary Lower 10:30 AM Emily REiner	8:00 AM Al Renn Len Witt 10:30 AM Denise Reiner	8:00 AM 10:30 AM
4/22/2018	10:30 AM Cindy Schaller	8:00AM Mason Forstoffer 10:30 AM Ty Reitz	8:00 AM Robert Bastian Pat Gerber 10:30 AM Cindy Schaller	8:00 AM 10:30 AM

4/29/2018 Annual Program Meeting	9:00 AM Donna Sheckler	9:00 AM Alexis Rushatz	9:00 AM Helene Sterner Robin Ruch	9:00 AM
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Saint Paul's Worship Committee is Looking for Volunteers

Communion Assistants: No experience is needed, training will be provided. .Contact Bob Bastian at 610 266-4287.

Lectors: are needed for our Sunday 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM services and special holiday services. Contact: Judy Donchez at 610-746-9283.

Altar Guild: The flexible schedule allows you to sign up for either service. Participants are paired to accommodate for unforeseen circumstances. No experience is necessary and training will take place at your convenience.

Altar and Flower Dedications at Saint Paul's

Honor a loved one, give thanks for an anniversary or accomplishment, or commemorate a loved one's birthday or death by sponsoring flowers for our altar or by sponsoring our church bulletins. If you would like to celebrate in this way, please fill out an Altar Flower and/or Bulletin Dedication form along with payment of \$40/\$15 & submit to church office. Dedication forms are in the narthex. .

Gift Card & Cash Bingo

Sunday, March 11, 2:00 PM in Fellowship Hall

Doors open at 12:30 PM

Food and beverages available for purchase.

20 games for \$20.00

Special drawing for Pine's Dinner

Theatre tickets:

\$2.00 for 1 ticket

\$5.00 for 3 tickets



Saturday, June 9, 2018

8:00 AM-1:00 PM (set up 7:00 AM)

The St. Paul's Fundraising Committee is holding a Yard Sale and Bake Sale on Saturday, June 9. We'll also be selling breakfast and lunch items from our kitchen. The sale will be held in Fellowship Hall. Proceeds will benefit the St. Paul's General Fund and a local charity. If you wish to donate items for St. Paul's to sell, please bring them to the church office between 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM Monday thru Friday. **Deadline to donate items is Sunday, June 3, 2018.**

If you would like to rent a space, the cost is \$15.00 . Please complete a Yard Sale Registration Form and bring it or mail it along with your payment to the Church Office (417 Howertown Rd, Catasauqua, PA 18032) Attention: Bob Bastian.

BAKERS - WE NEED YOU TOO!! If you would like to donate some of your delicious, homemade baked goods to our Bake Sale, please bring them to the Chapel Breezeway the morning of Saturday, June 9th, between 7:00 & 7:30 AM.

ST. PAUL'S HICKORY GROVE FLOWER/PLANT SALE ORDER FORM COST PER VOUCHER: \$19.00

Each ticket entitles the bearer to one (1) tray (12-4 packs or 6-6 packs mix & match) of bedding flowers or vegetables **OR** one (1) 10-inch \$18.99 hanging flower basket. ***Ticket is not valid on other items.*** Tickets must be redeemed from **May 1 through May 27, 2018** at Hickory Grove Greenhouse, 1096 Milton Street, Catasauqua, PA 18032.

Tickets can be purchased at the church office Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM or after church services on Sundays.

Ticket sale ends April 15, 2018

Saint Paul's Committee and Volunteer Leaders

Acolyte Coordinator: Bob Bastian

Altar Guild: Needed

Child Care Committee: Len Witt

Christian Education: Denise Reiner

Communion Assistants: Bob Bastian

Epistle: Needed

Eucharistic Ministry: Lew Heller

Evangelism/Witness: Paula Kesack

Finance Committee: Len Witt

Fundraising Committee: Bob Bastian

Greeter Coordinator: Bob Bastian

Lector Coordinator: Judy Donchez

Memorials: Betty MacHose

Mutual Ministry: Denise Reiner

Prayer Chain: Joanne Spengler

Property Committee: Bob Bastian

Scouts: Robin Ruch

Social Ministry: June Hahn

Stewardship: Lew Heller

Worship/Music Committee: Needed

Official Notice:

The Annual Program Meeting of Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church will take place on Sunday, April 29, 2018 following the 9:00 AM service of Holy Communion (i.e., approximately 10:00 AM). The purpose of this meeting is to receive the reports of our various ministries for 2017 and elect members to serve on the Congregation Council. If you are uncertain of your voting status, please contact the church office to inquire. Please note that, in accordance with Saint Paul's Constitution and By-Laws, "Voting by proxy or absentee ballot shall not be permitted." (C10.05)

April Birthdays



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Emma Pawlowski	4/1
Dale Hein	4/3
Rachel Peters	4/3
Brayden Shaffer	4/6
Robert Taniser Jr.	4/6
Lily Kuchinos	4/7
Eric Nichols	4/7
Bobbie Taniser	4/7
Alexandria Torrales	4/7
Patricia Gerber	4/8
John Frey	4/10
Nancy Fried	4/13
Katelyn Gier	4/13
Debra DeAngeles	4/16
Margaret Baker	4/17
Lynn Zakos	4/17
Chloe Ryan	4/18
Robert Sterner	4/18
Ashlyn Cantrel	4/19
Frances Kleppinger	4/19
Destiny Falk	4/20
Jose Lopez	4/23
Lorraine Schrader	4/25
Carol Williams	4/25
Heather Hudson	4/26

Lilian Szewczak	4/26
Colin Weaver	4/26
Carol Brandt	4/27
Edward Forstoffer IV	4/27
Robert Kulp Jr	4/27
Hannah Matchette	4/27
Anthony Berdell	4/28
James Williams	4/28
Latta Heil	4/29



April Anniversaries

Robert & Sandra Sensinger	4/1	46
Jason & Suzanne Mengel	4/10	19
David & Mary Spieker	4/12	38
David & Jane Laudenslager	4/23	41
Robert & Barbara Searfass	4/30	58

APRIL 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Easter Sunday 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:00 AM Easter Breakfast 10:30 AM Holy Communion	2 7:00 PM Worship 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Office Closed	3 7:00 PM Property	4	5 7:00 PM Cub Pack	6	7
8 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Holy Communion	9 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	10 6:30 PM Girl Scouts	11 8:00 PM Fundraising 6:30 PM Cadettes	12 7:00 PM Finance 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Cub Pack	13	14 PASTA DINNER 4:00 PM-7:00 PM
15 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Holy Communion	16 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	17 7:00 PM Child Care Committee 6:30 PM Girl Scouts	18 6:30 PM Cadettes	19 7:00 PM Cub Pack	20 Epistle Deadline	21
22 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Holy Communion	23 7:00 PM Congregation Council 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	24 6:30 PM Girl Scouts	25 6:30 PM Cadettes	26 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Cub Pack	27 Epistle Volunteers	28
29 9:00 AM Holy Communion 10:00 AM Annual Congregational Program Meeting	30 7:00 PM Boy Scouts					

THE



EPISTLE

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Our Mission Statement: To Serve all people by **Sharing** God's love, **Teaching** Christian values, and **Living** together in peace and hope.*

Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday- 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Sunday School

September 10, 2017-Pentecost 9:00 AM

Child Care Center

610.264.0190

Monday-Friday - 7:00 AM-5:30 PM

417 Howertown Road, Catasauqua, PA 18032

610 .264.3221

www.stpaulscatasauqua.com

April 2018 Worship Services

April 1, 2018 Easter Sunday

8:00 AM Holy Communion (in sanctuary)

9:00 AM Easter Breakfast (fellowship hall)

10:30 AM Holy Communion (in sanctuary)

April 8, 2018 Second Sunday of Easter

9:00 AM Holy Communion (in sanctuary)

9:00 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Holy Communion (in sanctuary)

April 15, 2018 Third Sunday of Easter

9:00 AM Holy Communion (in sanctuary)

9:00 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Holy Communion (in sanctuary)

April 22, 2018 Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:00 AM Holy Communion (in sanctuary)

9:00 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Holy Communion (in sanctuary)

April 29, 2018 Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:00 AM Holy Communion (in sanctuary)

10:00 AM Annual Program Meeting