

CORNERSTONE

“THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU AT ST. PAUL’S”

September 2020

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

Volume 26, Issue 9

Dear Partners in Ministry,

It might be hard to believe but since July 26th we have walked through most of Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians. There are four known letters from Paul to the people of Corinth, called the Corinthians. Some of the content of these letters has been lost to us and the remainder of what is left was used to create what we know as 1st and 2nd Corinthians. 2nd Corinthians was written less than a year after the documents used to create 1st Corinthians. It was during Paul’s second ministry journey that he visited the city of Corinth.

Corinth was a big sea port; it was a busy place full of trade and business was successful. The city itself was a Roman colony that was immersed in Greek tradition. Part of the Greek tradition was the ongoing pagan worship of the goddess Athena; another part was the sexual immorality that went on openly in worship spaces. Early Christians found it very difficult to communicate the love of Christ within the city because of these popular practices. There were divisions in families and friendships could not endure the tension that tugged between the old practices and the potential of the new way of Jesus. Paul openly speaks that suffering for Christ will be their “new normal”.

The lectionary focused on Consolation, Forgiveness, and Treasure in Clay Jars, Walk by Faith not Sight, Reconciliation, and Generosity. My attempt is to provide a “cliff-notes” version of what we have covered in 2nd Corinthians. First is Consolation. God does console us, but sometimes we don’t experience it in the way that we believe it should happen. We want everything to be just so; we want

all of our problems to just go away. But we really shouldn’t sit still and let God do all of the heavy lifting for us. We need to realize that in getting consolation from God provides us with strength, encouragement and hope. We are never alone in our suffering. Christ suffers along with us. We cannot depend solely on ourselves to live our lives, we have to yoke up with God. Second was Forgiveness. We are not just supposed to extend forgiveness to others three times, or even seven times. We are supposed to forgive each other in an ongoing way. The best posture to have is when we are authentic about who we are and accountable for all we do. It sounds much easier on paper than it

really is. God is totally aware of this and walks with us as we try to forgive others as often as we can. Third was Treasure in Clay Jars. We are the clay jars; we are ordinary on the outside but extraordinary on the inside. We are fragile jars of clay; therefore we need to be careful to make sure that we affect everyone else in a positive way. We are to be mindful of the attention we give to earthly money, possessions, and power. Our focus should be more on God. Fourth was Walk by Faith, not by Sight. We are reminded again that we are human beings with body and soul. Our bodies waste away in front of the mirror, but our soul never wastes away. The soul is nourished by the Word of God as we read scripture, as we worship together, and when we kneel in prayer. Our daily relationship with God is important and should take priority in our lives. Fifth was Reconciliation. We are brand new people on the inside when we have been forgiven; the relationship with God is stronger, that old sin is done and forgotten. We can think of God as the “quicker picker upper”, our sins are blotted out and thrown away in the garbage. Finally, Generosity. As I think of the

year plus that I have spent with you here at PLUM, I recognize you as generous people. Before the days of Covid's limitations, when I walked into all of your worship spaces, I knew that if I needed anything you would rush to provide it for me. You are generous within your communities by providing food, diapers and clothes to those in need. You are generous with your time, talents, and treasures. I have witnessed some wonderful music, ideas, and a willingness to stay in a meeting even though it was running late.

Those six weeks have seemed to fly by, and here we are still wearing masks and keeping our distance. As bad as all of this can sometimes feel, there are truly times where life seems to be going along in a positive way. Our worship spaces are beginning to reopen. We can greet each other once again—even if it is from six feet away. We are once again communing with wine AND bread. The ZOOM service is still well attended and I have heard that people enjoy seeing familiar folks and meeting new folks. The daily 3pm meet up on ZOOM has turned out to be not only a place to hang out, but a place of love and support for the other! As we begin our walk toward the end of summer, let's just pause and take a moment to take in all that we have experienced through the past few months. A deep breath is always a good way to refresh our body and soul!

God's continued blessings on each and every one of you!

Vicar Mandy

PLUM NEWS



In the midst of the Coronavirus global pandemic, the 10 small congregations of PLUM remain committed to our ministries of providing care and support for our families, our churches and our communities. We have moved to a virtual ministry format that includes Sunday worship at 3:00 p.m., daily prayer at 2:00 p.m. and on-line Bible studies. You may find the details for each of these ministry opportunities at our [What's New](#) page. Our phone line and our website will serve as sources to keep you updated to our rapidly-changing "new normal", as we faithfully respond to governmental

guidelines of caring for each other, in the midst of the Covid-19 virus. This will help us to stay connected to the needs of our members, community, and congregations.

Remember "God's Work /Our Hands" is more than a cute slogan. It is a many-faceted opportunity for us to truly be the BODY of Christ in the world. Thank you for partnering with us in this new journey.

Let us remember that GOD is with us ALWAYS!

PASTORAL Check-in Weekdays at 3pm on ZOOM is now called **Fellowship Time**. It is time to share joys, prayer concerns, and words of encouragement with people from around PLUM. **Zoom online:** <https://zoom.us/j/401596541> **Zoom by phone:** 646-876-9923 Meeting ID: 401 596 541

**PLUM WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING:
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH AT 7:00PM**

The PLUM Worship Committee has been organized for the purpose of sustaining the weekly zoom worship. Join us on September 9th (via ZOOM), as we plan and discuss upcoming ZOOM worship Sundays. At least one member from each PLUM Congregation is encouraged to attend.

Anyone interested in representing St. Paul's should contact Jill.

**AT HOME TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE: FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 2, 2020, 7:00 P.M.**

During this time of the Coronavirus and Social Distancing, Prayer is a source of Comfort. Please join us in Taize Prayer from the safety of your homes. To participate in the Taize Prayer service, go to PLUM's [Zoom page](#). Call Pastor Sue (412-496-4889) or Pastor Brenda (412-390-8005) if you have questions.

The PLUM board meeting will be held on Monday, September 28th beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There will be a special congregational meeting on Sunday, September 27th following the worship service to approve a bid for concrete work on Jefferson Avenue. Please try to attend.

Learning How to Act during a Pandemic

For the past few years, we have packaged meals for Rise Against Hunger.



This year we will have a **two-part series** to learn about ways we can help during COVID. During **virtual coffee hour** we will spend 20 minutes learning and asking questions to help us pick our next steps. (See plumofpa.com for login details.)



Rise Against Hunger – September 13

Someone will talk to us about their approach to ministry and ways they are adapting to continue work this year.



LIRS (Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Services)

Date to be determined – Someone will tell us stories about people they serve and ways their work has changed this year.

PLUM Discussion Series Studies will resume on September 15 and will be Tuesdays at 1pm and Thursdays at 7pm via zoom. As time gets closer, please see the PLUM website (plumofpa.com) for details.

Join us for virtual worship at 3 p.m. and the following special virtual coffee hours.

The call in line for PLUM Sunday 3 PM worship services:

Zoom online: <https://zoom.us/j/401596541>

Zoom by phone: (646) 876 9923

Meeting ID: 401 596 541



Our monthly mission emphasis for September is ELCA Domestic Disaster Relief. Any contributions to this mission should be at the church by September 27th. Thank you for your contributions to Mission Support. \$271.00 was sent to the synod.



Carol Cramer
Josh Porter, Jr.

September 14
September 27



Keep in your prayers: Anna Mae, Mark, Albert, Kristin, Jason, Pam, Virginia, Misty, Matthew, Jennifer, Betty Jane, Rich, Rachel, Pat, Donna, Randy, Anna Mae, Eddie, Steve, Barbara, Tom, Charlotte, John, Mark, Kelly, Mike, Carol Jean, the Miller, Paulick, Galano, Burchesky, Mele, Richmond families, all those suffering from the coronavirus, our Bishops, our Synod, our PLUM pastors and members and our church. If anyone needs to be added or deleted, please contact Jill at 724-747-4418 or email stpaulscbg@verizon.net

*Grandparents Day is
Sunday, September 13th!
Wishing all Grandparents
everywhere a wonderful day!*

