

SEPTEMBER 2018

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phil. 4:13

You Can Degajé

I once read an article by David Williamson in *Christian Century* in which he writes of his experiences in Haiti. He tells of learning Creole by reading the Bible with a Haitian friend. "When I was a teenager, one of my favorite verses was Philippians 4:13. I was surprised to read the Creole rendition of this verse. 'In any situation that appears before me, I can *degaje*, thanks to Christ who gives me strength.'

"I had been expecting to find *fé*, the Creole word for 'do' or 'accomplish.' *Degajé* has a different meaning. Haitians use it in this way: If you don't have the skills or materials to do something correctly, you '*degajé*' it—you make it work some other way. For instance, if you don't have the right screws to mount a pencil sharpener to a desk, you use nails or wire or even duct tape to keep it in place. You '*degajé*' it.

"This shift in verbs is crucial. The Haitian understanding is not that with God's help we can make any dream come true. Rather, with God's help, we can expect to *degajé*. We can get by; we can make life work. And in some ways this is Paul's message too. He is writing, after all, from prison. He is not telling the Philippians the secret of being successful; he is teaching them the art of survival in any and all circumstances—in poverty and riches, in hunger and plenty."

What an inspiring image for St. Paul III as you prepare to call a new pastor. You don't know exactly what lies ahead, but you do know that God calls you to move forward in mission. You know that God promises to lead you and walk with you every step of the way. And you know that with the Spirit's help, you will continue to *degajé*.

Pastor Paul

TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>SURPLUS/ (SHORTAGE)</u>
JULY	\$ 9,145.28	\$ 9,070.29	\$ 74.99
YEAR-TO-DATE	\$ 60,477.97	\$ 62,085.91	(\$ 1,607.94)

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THANK YOU NOTES RECEIVED

- *Bear Creek Camp*: "Thank you very much for the gift of \$154 that we received in June. We are grateful for your support and for your partnership in the Gospel. We are very thankful you're your congregation is part of our team." (This was our Second Sunday offering in May.)
- *Shirley Stillo and Family*: "Many thanks to everyone for your prayers and kindness during the illness and loss of my husband."
- *Monica McCandless from Meals on Wheels of Northampton County*: "Thank you so much for the donation of toilet paper and bags. Your generosity is very much appreciated."

MILESTONES

BAPTISM

On Sunday, August 12, Amelia Evelyn Harris was baptized into the Lord's family. Her parents are Corinne and Daniel Harris and her big brother is Jackson.

We receive her as a fellow member of the body of Christ, child of the heavenly father, and worker with us in the kingdom of God.

DEATHS

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Henry Greenleaf and family on the death of his mother Deborah A. Greenleaf on July 18. Pastor Paul Braden officiated at her memorial service held at the church. Memorials to the church are being accepted in her name.

We also extend our sympathy and prayers to Shirley Stillo and family at the death of her husband Santo A. (Tony) Stillo Jr. on July 29. A memorial service was held at the church with Pastor Paul Braden officiating. Memorials to the church in Tony's name are being accepted.

FALL SCHEDULE

Our **Worship Service** continues at 10 AM.

Coffee Hour will follow the worship service.

The new sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex.

Anyone who would like to bake and/or serve as hostess, see Sallie or Betty for more information.

OKTOBERFEST GERMAN DINNER

It will be held on Saturday, September 29, from 4-7 PM at Arndt's Lutheran Church. The menu will include bratwurst, hot dogs, sauerkraut, German and PA Dutch potato salads, spiced cabbage, pickled eggs, homemade apple dumplings with ice cream, and beverages. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 5-12.

Children under 5 eat free. See Pattie Corcoran for tickets. All proceeds will benefit Open Arms Senior Connection, a community program for all older adults.

MARK your CALENDAR\$. . .

. . . for **OCTOBER 14**. As part of our 150th Anniversary Celebration, our guest that day will be BISHOP SAMUEL ZEISER from the NE PA Synod. There will be a brunch after the worship service. Please watch for details in the weekly bulletins and *Herald*.

150th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

September 22: Oldies Dance. Dig out your poodle skirts and dancing shoes! It will be held in Fellowship Hall from 7 to 10 PM. Refreshments will be served and there is NO admission cost. Watch for details in the weekly bulletins.

October 14: Visit from Bishop Samuel Zeiser of NE PA Synod followed by a scrumptious brunch. Watch for details and sign-up sheets in the weeks to come.

December: Children's Christmas party and a family Christmas get-together

UPDATES: We filled 150 cloth bags made by the Stitchers with rolls of toilet paper for Meals on Wheels recipients for the Christmas in July project and we collected 271 boxes of crayons during August to donate to the children at Paxinosa Elementary School.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

SECOND SUNDAY

Remember that the second offering received during worship on the second Sunday of each month is used to support various social ministry agencies and issues in our local community, Synod, ELCA, and our world. In August we collected \$138.00 for Lutheran Disaster Relief for victims of the wildfires in California, tornadoes in the Midwest, and flooding in the Midwest and Northeast. **In September the recipient is the Boys & Girls Club of Easton.** Please continue to support these programs.

SMILING through your SENIOR YEARS

Make your golden years great years! Join us for an entertaining and uplifting afternoon with Lehigh Valley experts who will share strategies for mental, physical, and financial wellness. Join us on Sunday, October 7, from 2 to 4 PM in Fellowship Hall. There will be pie and ice cream. Look for a sign-up sheet on the Information Table in the Narthex soon. This event is sponsored by our Thrivent representative, Kristen Edelman-Weiner.

BETHLEHEM/EASTON MISSION INGATHERING

The Ingathering for the Bethlehem/Easton Mission District will be held on Wednesday, December 5, 2018. Our congregation's designated item is **180 bars of soap and 180 washcloths**. You can wrap each bar in a washcloth and fasten it with a rubber band or just donate the items and we will assemble them. To date, we have 151 wrapped soaps—with only 29 more needed. There are containers to collect these items in the Gathering Area.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Remember to bring canned and non-perishable goods for three area food banks—ProJeCt, Salvation Army, and St. Paul's Lutheran South Side ("12 Baskets Full"). There is a list of needed items next to the Food Bank collection basket on the table in the Gathering Area.

FROM the MUSIC DIRECTOR'S BENCH

As I sat on the beach in the Cayman Islands this summer, I found that the nice quiet spot I had chosen was right next to the staging area for water sports. I watched people head out to the sea on jet skis, paddle boards, and with their snorkel equipment.

All I was doing in the water was floating!

We were all enjoying a gorgeous day at the beach in our different ways. The jet skiers were flying by the beach. They couldn't talk to anyone. They couldn't see the fish and the coral reef below them. They also couldn't hear the waves lapping the shore or the cries of the shore birds overhead.

The paddle boarders had the opportunity to call out to each other as they negotiated the waves, and they could admire the sea and shore from their perspective of being on top of the water, but they were missing the sea life and beauty beneath them.

The snorkelers had the ability to really see and appreciate the underwater beauty that jet skiers zoomed by and the paddle boarders glided over, but they also couldn't fully communicate with each other.

Then there was me, and all the others like me. We floated along, relishing the views of beach, sea, and sky. We walked through shallow water watching fish swim around us. And we talked and laughed together, sharing the experience.

You know, just as people should live their spiritual lives. Don't be a jet skier, just dashing along, alone, at your own speed. Don't be a snorkeler, limiting your perspective to only one view. Don't skim the surface like the paddle boarders. Don't forget to discuss and share what you see and feel.

Later in our trip, I had the opportunity to take a tour in a submarine. About thirty of us rode over the open sea in a small boat, then transferred to a submarine where we all shared the experience of being under the water, listening to a guide explain what we were seeing, and helping each other spot the fish, the coral formations, and the rays. That, it seemed, was the real metaphor for our spiritual journey. Traveling together, paying attention to our leader and guide, helping each other get the most out of the trip, and seeing the whole picture. That's the way to do it, in the Caribbean, and in the church.

SEPTEMBER

PARISH SECRETARY'S HOURS:
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

In the EVENT of CANCELLATION

If it is necessary to cancel some of our activities, for whatever reason, please tune in to WFMZ, channel 69 on your TV, or call the church office and select option 226.

EMAIL ADDRESS

Office: sp3office@rcn.com

NEW WEBSITE

Our website has been entirely rebuilt and will be online sometime in early September. Please visit the site (stpaulsthirdd.org) and take a few minutes to explore it.

If you have any comments or suggestions, or if you encounter any problems, please contact the church office. We want our website to be attractive, useful, and easy to navigate, so your feedback will be very much appreciated.

DEADLINE for the OCTOBER issue of the *Herald* is September 16.

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Cut out the following information and keep it in your wallet!

St. Paul's III Lutheran Church
2561 Newburg Road, Easton, PA 18045
(610) 258-0875

Hospital Codes:

Easton: L35

St. Luke's: 316

Lehigh Valley, Allentown General, Muhlenberg: 316

If you are admitted to the hospital, please give them our code so they can notify us of your admittance. A family member should still inform the church office so visitation arrangements can be made.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beginning Sunday, September 9, **Sunday School** starts at 8:45 AM. All children ages 3 through 6th grade are welcome. Please see Bev Brodhead to register.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

So what is *CONFIRMATION* anyway? Lutheran confirmation is a public profession of faith prepared for by a two-year study process beginning in the 7th grade. It is a chance for our youth to recognize and affirm their baptism—a chance to say YES to God! They take personal responsibility for living out the promises their parents made at their baptism—to live among God’s faithful people, to hear the word of God, share in the Lord’s supper, to proclaim the good news of God through word and deed, and to serve all people, following the example of Jesus Christ. Confirmed youth become voting members of our church family.

Here at St. Paul’s III we join with Arndt’s Lutheran Church for this program. We meet the third Sunday of the month from 3-5 PM from September through May. Yes, there are requirements and yes, it is a commitment! *We do not consider confirmation a “graduation” but rather one of the building blocks in a life-long journey in a forever growing relationship with our Lord and Savior.*

This year’s program will **begin on Sunday, September 16 at Arndt’s**. Contact the church office or Margaret LaDuca (610-252-4369 or maladuca5@gmail.com) for information on new student/parent orientation.

LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITOR TRAINING

We need church members to take communion to our shut-ins on a monthly basis. A session on Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training will be held on Saturday, Sept. 22, at Christ Lutheran Church in Hellertown from 9 AM to 4 PM. If interested, please contact the church office or see Bev Brodhead.

THRIVENT NEWS

Our Thrivent representative, Kristen Edelman-Weiner, has been appointed Vice President of Synod Council, working with Bishop Zeiser. She is still available to help anyone with any Thrivent questions or concerns. Wish her well in this new venture!