



JESUS SAYS...WELCOME HOME!

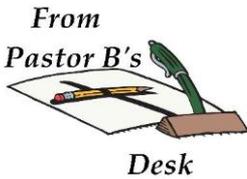
⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.¹ Romans 12:4-5 NRSV

THE EVANGEL

JUNE 2020



***ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
HANOVER, PENNSYLVANIA 17331***



Here is something for everyone to ponder, especially in light of the fact we have been forced to close our churches by governmental decree. My hope is something here will speak to the hearts of many who are “slip sliding away.” Many thanks to Carey Nieuwhof for her thoughts.

A Response to Christians Who Are Done with Church

By Carey Nieuwhof

You hear it all the time.

I'm done with church.

I don't really need to go to church...my relationship with God is personal.

I've had it with organized religion.

The church is a man-made invention, not God's idea.

I completely understand why a growing number of people are bailing on church. Even people who used to lead in the church often stop attending. We've spent a lot of time working through the issue of declining church attendance and growing disillusionment with the church. Even committed church attenders are attending church less often.

I get it. The church is far from perfect. Life is complex. There are growing options. And the post-modern mind distrusts most things organized or institutional. But as trendy as the idea of writing off the church may be, it's a mistake. And while writing off the church passes as sophisticated thinking today, it's actually the opposite. Generally speaking, it is simplistic and reductionist thinking that leads nowhere pleasant.

But the church isn't even biblical, is it?

People argue the idea of church isn't even biblical.

So, let's start with the basics.

First if you're a Christian, church is not something you go to. It's something you are. You can't disassociate from church as a Christian any more than you can disassociate from humanity as a person. **You don't go to church. You are the church.**

Second, the church was not a human invention. Just half-reading the New Testament with one eye closed will still lead you to the inescapable conclusion that the church was God's idea. In fact, most of the New Testament is not about the teachings of Jesus; it's about the work of the church that Jesus initiated and ordained.

From the Pastor's Desk - continued

I could fill several pages here with scripture verses that prove the point, because quite frankly, you'd have to get rid of the majority of the New Testament to argue that the church was a parenthetically, made-up organization.

By the way, if you want to get rid of the church, you will also need to get rid of Jesus. You can't have one without the other.

Maybe what bothers you should actually amaze you

I understand that the idea of the church being imperfect makes some people despair. But rather than making us despair, the fact that Jesus started the church with imperfect people should make us marvel at God's incredible grace. That God would use ordinary, broken human beings as vessels of his grace, and delight in it is awe-inspiring. He's proud of how his grace is beating through your imperfect-but-redeemed life and through the church. (*Have you ever read Ephesians 3: 10-11?*)

The idea that God would use *you* and *me* is pretty amazing. He had other options. He could have spoken to the world directly, but instead chose to use broken people to showcase his grace to a world in need of redemption.

For sure, community is messy. People sin. Leaders are sinful. Most of the New Testament is not a story of an idealized church where everything worked perfectly all the time (just read 1 Corinthians any time you're frustrated with your church).

Most of the New Testament is a story of Jesus using his followers to spread his love, in spite of themselves, and as they overcome obstacle after obstacle. The fact that Christ uses flawed people to accomplish his work on earth is actually a sign of his grace, not a sign of his absence.

The church's story, as twisted as it gets at times, is a beautiful story of God's grace, God's power, and God's redemption. So, by the way, is your life, which reflects the story of the church more than you would want to admit.

The church gives the world a front row seat to the grace of God.

The ultimate consumerism isn't going to church, it's walking away from it

People criticize the church today as being consumer-ist. And to some extent, churches cater to consumerism in their members, often to its detriment. I agree that consumerism is a real problem for Christianity.

From the Pastor's Desk - continued

But ironically, much of the dialogue about why people are done with church pushes people deeper into Christian consumerism than it pushes them into deeper discipleship.

Ultimately, consumerism leads to: *Here I am, all alone, worshipping God on my schedule when it's convenient for me.*

But listening to a podcast of your favorite preacher while you're at the gym or on the back deck or pushing three of your favorite worship songs through your ear buds every morning does not make you a more passionate Christ follower. It usually makes you a less effective one.

Disconnecting yourself from community is actually less faithful than connecting yourself to a flawed community. And if you think the church today isn't enough (and arguably, we need to reform it), then do what the early Christians did.

If you want a more biblical church...don't gather weekly, gather *daily*. Before dawn. Get up before the sun rises to pray together with other Christians before you go to work. Pool your possessions. Don't claim anything as your own. Be willing to lose your job, your home, your family and even your life because you follow Jesus. Then you'll be more authentic.

And notice that the early church did *gather*. Gathering always leads to some form of organizing. To pretend the church doesn't need to be organized is as logical as arguing that society doesn't need to be organized. Because community is inevitable, organization is inevitable.

Our ability to organize and to accomplish more together than we can alone is one of the crowning achievements of humanity, and our ability to work together makes Christian effort far more effective. It's also part of God's design for how we should interact while we're on this planet. Come to think of it, heaven is a community too.

The only one who wants us to believe that we are better off alone is our enemy. If you really think about it, it's actually a very clever tactic.

The church has helped even those who resent church

Finally, if you're reading this article and you have any modicum of faith in Jesus, may I suggest your faith is actually the result of the mission of the church. Very few people come to know Jesus because he appears to them supernaturally when they are alone and calls them by name.

From the Pastor's Desk - continued

Does that ever happen? Sure. But not to 99.9% of us. Almost all of us who follow Jesus have had our lives changed by a flawed body called the church that Jesus so passionately loves and calls his own.

Think about that.

We need more church

Do we need more churches? Yes.

Do we need more humble churches? Yes, we do.

Do we need authentic, Gospel bound leaders? Absolutely.

Does the church need to change? Without a doubt.

(The church makes very human mistakes, too, and needs continual reformation.)

So, what will the future look like?

Will we gather in the same way we do today in the future?

In some ways yes; in others, no.

Hopefully, we will gather more frequently and work through our differences at a deeper level and impact our communities more powerfully. But regardless of how the church gathers in the future, we *will* gather...because when we are faithful followers, we need to gather.

We Christians need each other, probably now more than ever. And even if you don't think you need other Christians, God says you do, and so does our world.

Now, more than ever, the world needs Christians working together humbly under Christ to lead people into a growing relationship with him, in whatever innovate and fresh forms that takes. So, ... the church is not dead. Far from it.

Maybe it's just beginning to get back into shape again, and down to fighting weight; for a brand-new era that desperately needs it to be the Church of God, again.

Pastor Burkhardt

*Got a question ...need to talk?
The office is open, and the phone is working.*



UPDATE FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

Having lived, now, in the midst of new COVID based realities, we clearly are experiencing uncertain and difficult times, not unlike the experience of the early Christians in the days of Roman Empire. We have never been in the situation we now find ourselves. Our world is turned upside down. Fear, insecurity, and anxiety affects us, those we love, and our communities, including the church.

We are overwhelmed with media advice, much of which is unsubstantiated, incomplete, patently false, and changes daily. We no longer know who to trust to provide us with accurate and verifiable information for good decision making, but it keeps coming at us, from every venue of social media, internet, television, radio, and newspapers. Many have shared with me that they feel overwhelmed; confused, lost, and paralyzed by not knowing what is true and therefore not knowing what to do.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, our faith commends us to trust God and hope; not to surrender and be consumed by fear, insecurity, and the anxiety being served up by the world and the worldly. As followers of Jesus, we are to put our trust in God who raised Jesus from the dead and who, in the power of the Holy Spirit, sends us to be God's servants of restoration in the face of brokenness, alienation, and now, pandemic illness. Now is the time to be the Church God wants us and needs us to be.

As much as we are called to be wise in the midst of the coronavirus, we must not allow these temporary circumstances to turn us away from our calling to be God's "hands and feet" in the world. Just the opposite! We must stand with God in the face of the forces of fear, insecurity and anxiety, and bear Gospel witness to the loving, liberating, and life-giving reality of Jesus. We urge everyone, as best as you able, to support these Church efforts by your own time and talents, to continue to care for the poor, marginalized, and now forcibly unemployed [by edict,] while adhering to the COVID safety guidelines offered by qualified medical authorities.

Finally and most earnestly, in the midst of pandemic, we are reminded by the Gospel of our salvation to put our faith, hope and trust in God who has raised Jesus from the dead and given into His hands all glory to eternal life for us, and with it: ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of His gracious love. We are called to be the followers of Jesus sent into the world to do God's will in God's ways. It

UPDATE FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE - continued

may not be what we had wished for in our time and place, but it is what we have been given. What we do with it to the glory of God will make a difference.

For these days, let us all pray together every morning the prayer of St. Francis: *Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith, where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.*

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

JUNE'S DESIGNATED GIVING RYAN'S HOPE

Ryan's Hope is a non-profit 501C-3, charitable organization dedicated to conquering childhood cancer and enhancing the lives of pediatric cancer patients and their families affected by Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (*DIPG).

Every year, 300 children between the ages of 3 and 11 are diagnosed with DIPG and are given 9-to-18 months to live. Childhood brain cancer research is significantly underfunded, and the public remains unaware of the gravity of this disease. The money we raise goes directly to DIPG researchers.

We operate in memory of a vibrant 5-year-old boy named Ryan Arnold, who in 2012 lost his battle with an inoperable, incurable, pediatric brain tumor called Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG).

We formed as a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization to raise awareness and promote medical research for this 100% fatal cancer.

Ryan's Hope maintains 3 basic goals:

- Raise money to support medical research of DIPG.
- Create awareness about childhood cancer.
- Help local families and children suffering from brain cancer.

Please help with a donation toward our goals.

For more information go to [www. http://www.ryanshopeorg.com/](http://www.ryanshopeorg.com/)

**GLEANINGS FROM THE MAY 2020
ZOOM GATHERING OF CHURCH COUNCIL**



Mission: To fulfill the command given in Matthew 25:35
“for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” And the King will answer, truly I tell you, just as you did it unto one of the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you did unto me. Matthew 25:40

- The making a difference moments are Saturday food ministry, prayer group, Deb Sowers’ daily devotions, phone calls to congregation and online service.
- Property Committee held a workday to repair rain gutter at rear of building.
- Global Ministry Committee cancelled the mission trip for this summer.
- Family Fest week will be replaced with one day events throughout the summer.
- The Lutheran Camping Corporation cancelled camps scheduled for this summer.
- Council approved the motion by the Constitution Taskforce to update current constitution to the 2019 changes in the model constitution of the ELCA.
- Saturday Grocery Bag Ministry received a \$1,700.00 grant from the Lower Susquehanna Synod. The number of bags has increased from twenty to thirty per week. This ministry has helped in building relationships with our neighbors in the community.
- July designated giving will be used to offset the cost of sterilization of the church prior to its re-opening.
- Council asked the Executive Committee to form a COVID-19 Taskforce as we prepare to be together again in person.
- May you see God at work in your lives and the community.

Do not worry 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 your minds in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:6-7**

SPONSORSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR:

- Radio - June 7, 14, 21 & 28
 - Bulletins - June 7, 14 & 28
 - Eternal Flame - June 7, 14, 21 & 28
- Please contact Sue Wineholt to reserve your date at swineholt@comcast.net or 717-637-5941.

THE ITEMS ON THIS PAGE ARE ONLY TENTATIVE

BISHOP DUNLOP shares questions and concerns about reopening our church in our synod.

Please watch it for yourself so that you can make the best decision in regards to whether or not you wish to attend.

<https://www.facebook.com/LowerSusquehannaSynodElca/videos/284709392715111/?sfnsn=mo&d=n&vh=e>



Until then worship with us online at <http://www.stpaulsyorkst.org/recorded-services.html>



Our hope is that we can once again assemble **OUTDOORS** on Sunday, June 14th at 9:30 a.m..

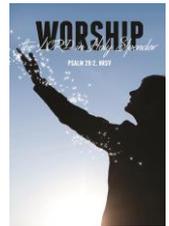
9:30 am – Worship on the lawn. If we get to large for the lawn, we will move to the parking lot so that we can spread out more.

- If Worship Service can be held, please refrain from attending if you are sick. Worship with us online instead.
- Bring your own lawn chair. (Chairs will be available if you forget to bring your own.) Masks are recommended.
- Families can sit together but family groups and others should sit 6' apart.
- Holy Communion will **NOT** be celebrated.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP LEADERS NEEDED!!!!

At this point we don't know what worship will look like. We do know that we will have a great need for people willing to assist Pastor Bob in leading.

If you could help us in this way, please sign up on the sheet provided in the Elevator Entrance on a clip board. Simply sign-up for the week(s) you would like to participate, and we will be in touch.





HELP WILL BE NEEDED with set-up and break down for the outdoor summer 9:30 AM service when it can begin! **GLOVES WILL BE WORN.**

We do not expect anyone to take a full month at a time, but if you could help during a few weeks from June thru the end of August please sign up on the sheet provided in the Elevator Entrance on a clip board. Simply sign-up for the week(s) you would like to participate, and we will be in touch.

Steward your *new* community



Like a caterpillar emerging from a cocoon to new life as a butterfly, we can steward our congregations and communities to awaken from Covid-19 to a more excellent reality that brims with faith, hope and love.

Covid-19's hardship, deprivation and grief have inspired an outpouring of kindness, generosity, selflessness, neighborliness and courageous service. Suffering has given us a glimpse of what our communities can and should be, following Christ's two principal commands: love God and love one another.

Our stewardship opportunity and challenge is clear: Can we cultivate this renewed spirit of loving neighborliness as a "new normal"? As our community's central, defining ethos?

The last several months have taught us much:

- **Life is precious.** Everyone counts. No exceptions.
- **We suffer together.** Shared pain creates strong bonds.
- **Serving brings fulfillment.** Many sacrifice joyfully.
- **We need each other.** We can't go it alone.
- **We miss each other.** We require human interaction.
- **Personal contact is sublime.** Nothing beats face-to-face.
- **We are grateful.** Thank God for what we have.
- **We are wiser.** We know what's important.

Covid-19 is receding, though slowly. Much pain lies ahead. Before it's through, the virus will claim more of our friends and loved ones. Many families will suffer economically.

But the virus is also teaching us anew how to be loving neighbors. As Covid-19 abates, we can deepen these lessons and steward our communities to live more closely aligned with God's purposes, to discover life abundant with joy, connection, fulfillment, and generosity. With God's help, our congregations and communities can emerge from our Covid-19 cocoon to a more excellent reality, centered in faith, hope and love.

--Rob Blezard



If we have missed someone please let the church office know. You can email us at stpaulsnyorkst@comcast.net or call us at 637-5941.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Hanover

Matthew Murray

New Oxford

Jake Feeser

Southwestern

Brady Duttera and Cole Shutika

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Matthew Dickson graduated from Susquehanna University with a degree in biochemistry (B.S.) and a minor in religious studies. As for his future plans, beginning in August, Matthew will be continuing my education at the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University where I'll be pursuing an M.D.

Lauren Frank graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with dual degrees, a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies. Her future plans are to attend the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Social Work where she will pursue a master's in social work.

Morganne Holtzman graduated from Mount Saint Mary's University with a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education.



With Deepest Sympathy

Our sister in Christ, Lena (Dolly) Reichert (Kathleen Brown's sister), claimed the promise of her baptism on May 3, 2020.

Our brother in Christ, Ronald Zartman, claimed the promise of his baptism on May 20, 2020.

From the R3 Team - What is in your Blessing Bag?



I've been watching a daily online devotional led by pastors from a Lutheran Church in South Carolina. Pastor Diane leads the devotion on Wednesdays and is currently talking about blessings. On May 6th she talked about making a blessing bag. Since we can't write on our blessings board, how about creating a blessing bag? Some of the things Pastor Diane has in her blessing bag are a stuffed animal given to her when she had surgery, an ornament that a friend brought her and a note pad. The note pad she uses to write down times she has been blessed and places them in her bag. The bag for your blessings can be anything from a shopping bag to a decorated paper bag. Think about times you have been blessed. What would you put in your blessing bag? We hope you will share some of your blessings when we meet again.

Jen Zellers
R3 Team



If Outdoor Sunday Worship cannot be held due to inclement weather or if you are not feeling well you can still watch online at <http://www.stpaulsyorkst.org/recorded-services.html>

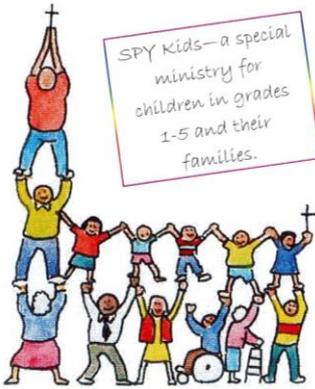
CARD SHOWER – Please consider participating in a card shower for Gladys Raubenstine's 98th birthday, which she will celebrate on June 11. Please mail cards to:

Gladys Raubenstine
425 Westminster Avenue
Hanover PA 17331



SPY Kids

We are saddened by not being able to be together during this time of physical distancing. Hope everyone is staying safe!



Our upcoming events:

DAILY FACEBOOK LIVE EVENT

****Join Deb (and some friends at times!) for a "moment of joy" every day at noon (Monday through Friday). We sing songs, have a devotion, and prayer. If you can't be with us at noon, watch the replay of the event at any time!**

To watch LIVE—connect to our FB page at noon

To watch REPLAY—after connecting to our page, click "videos" on the left hand side and it'll take you right to our saved videos.

STAY SAFE-STAY WELL!

VIRTUAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
THIS IS STILL TENTATIVE!
Watch for more details.

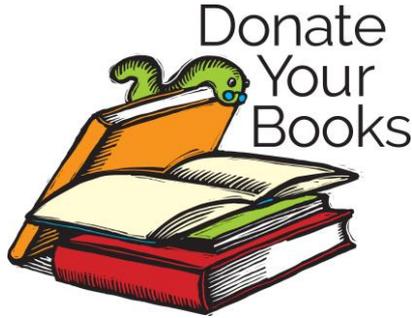
YOU'RE INVITED
CHILDREN AGES PREK-5th

Monday, August 10-Friday, August 14
In the morning

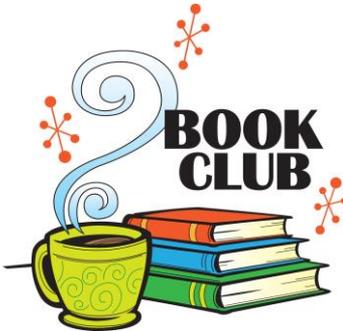
**Join St. Mark's and St. Paul's for our
VIRTUAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020**

New Friends • Creative Games • Food
Worship • Great Teachings

MEN IN MISSION FALL BOOK SALE



We are planning for our fifth annual book sale in October. Last year was our most successful one to date, and we look forward to an even better one this year. More information will be forthcoming. Start saving those used books, puzzles, DVD's. Proceeds benefit our youth.



The Book Club hopefully will meet in June at the home of Mary Ellen Gromen on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Please note the change in day for June. We will be discussing The Great Alone by Kristen Hannah. Hopefully, we will be able to be out and about by then. Please remember to wear face masks and to keep a safe distance.

We are meeting on July 15, 2020, with the author Buffy Andrews to discuss her book The Stone Giver at Cindy Selby's house at 6:30 pm. Note the change in time. We will meet outside by Cindy's pool so we can keep a safe distance and we are meeting earlier so there will be lots of daylight. This meeting was postponed from May. If you are interested in carpooling meet at church by 6:00 pm. We hope that all of you will attend this meeting since Buffy graciously changed the date for us.

It has been a difficult Spring trying to keep activities up and going. We have met twice for Book Club via Zoom. I thank Marge Erickson for graciously setting up these meetings. Hopefully, you all have been able to stay well and to take time to read. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Janet Haack at jmhaack@comcast.net or 717-633-1365. Stay safe and healthy.

LUTHERAN CAMPING CORPORATION NEWS

Even though the camping season for Camp Nawakwa and Camp Kirchenwald **has been cancelled for this summer** St. Paul's will continue to accept donations to assist with the 2021 Camping season and providing scholarship for St. Paul's Youth.



SUMMER FACILITY RENTAL (SUMMER 2020)

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), 2020 Summer Camp at Kirchenwald & Nawakwa has been canceled. But our sites are not completely shut down. Select facilities are available to rent at all sites. The list of available facilities will change. Please check back to this page for an updated list. Cabins and lodges should only be used by members living in the same household as part of COVID-19 mitigation efforts.

Available starting May 22

Kirchenwald

- Cabins – \$40 per night
- Adirondack – \$30 per night
- Treehouse – \$30 per night
- Fort Kirchenwald – \$30 per night

Nawakwa

- Cabins (Lower or Upper Camp) – \$45 per night

Please see the website below for more information

<https://www.lutherancamping.org/summer-facility-rental-summer-2020/>

ST. PAUL'S EVANGEL

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Facebook: St Pauls Evangelical Lutheran Church

Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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