



## The Voice

of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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As this article is being written, Valentino Dixon is enjoying life as a free man. After spending 27 years behind bars for a murder he did not commit, he was released into the waiting arms of his 28 year-old daughter, who was an infant when he last saw her. And all of this was right here in Buffalo, NY. Another man, Lamarr Scott pled guilty to the murder, and Dixon was freed. Happy ending? Justice served? Hardly.

It turns out that Lamarr Scott has been pleading guilty to the murder since August 1991, a few days after the murder was committed. Nobody believed him. It also turns out that a gunshot residue test was performed on Dixon's clothing and it came back negative for gunpowder. The results of that test were never brought to light at the trial, nor was Dixon's lawyer informed of it.

Like most stories of this kind of injustice, Dixon, at the time of the murder, was described by current DA John Flynn as, "not an innocent man." It was Dixon's gun that killed 17 year old Torriano Jackson, back in 1991. Flynn described it as a "machine gun." And Dixon was described as an "up and coming drug dealer." The line between good and evil is rarely straight in this world.

Stories of institutional injustice like this are the gas that fuels the rage so many experience today when the color of your skin seems to determine what kind of justice you receive. Our Lutheran understanding of sin has a lot to say in situations like this. First, as we often pray: "we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves." None of us is innocent. All of us are guilty of sin. Valentino Dixon was deemed guilty by the sin of others, who did not do their job properly. Once behind bars, Valentino Dixon could not free himself. As we understand our faith, we are all guilty before God. When we say that Jesus died for our sins, we're not saying Jesus turned us from guilty sinners into innocent saints. We remain guilty, but Jesus has paid the penalty for our sins. Almighty God, seeing that Jesus was willing to die for us, declares us free from the penalty for our sin, and that means life and freedom for us. Time will tell what Valentino Dixon does with his new found freedom. The question is: What will we do with ours?

Pastors Tim and Wendy



Last year we celebrated the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. This year finds Pope Francis in the Lutheran Cathedral in Riga, Latvia for an Ecumenical Prayer Service at which he implored the worshippers from several Christian traditions to travel "the only path possible for all ecumenism: that of confronting the cross of suffering experienced by so many young people, elderly persons and young children all too often exploited, lacking meaning in life, deprived of opportunities and suffering from loneliness".

Here at St. Paul's, we'll remember the Reformation on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. And later that morning at 10:30am, we celebrate the Confirmation of six of our young members; Gaby Brown, Robert Dickie, Jenna Doerfler, TJ Hutchinson, Lauren Koenig, and Olivia Langlotz.

## MISSION NEWS OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup>—WORLD FOOD DAY

I don't know about most of you, but I don't miss many meals. And if you don't either, nor your family, or neighbors, or co-workers and friends, then the following statistics mean that there is a large concentration elsewhere of others who do:

- In the US, 40 million people are food insecure. Worldwide, 842 million, or 12% of the population, are.
- 45% of child deaths are due to hunger.
- Every 3.6 seconds someone dies of hunger, 75% of whom are children, and a disproportionate number of women.
- 9 million people die worldwide of hunger each year.

So, does designating one day of the year "Food Day" really help? It does raise awareness, and encourages action to ensure food security for all. Hunger around the world had been on the decline, but is now on the rise again.

Working with and through our congregations in the U.S., Lutheran churches around the world, and other partners, ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty. Gifts of \$22 million to World Hunger in 2016 helped people in over 60 countries around the world. **Thank you!**

In the length of time it took you to read this article, 25 people died of hunger.

We are church together for the sake of the world. God's Work. Our Hands.

## President's Message –

My St. Paul's Family

Here we are again, back into the fall routine. It's almost comforting to be back into the predictable patterns of the Sunday School Year and the resumption of activities that have been put aside for the summer.

St. Paul's continues to be there for all of us, for our Spiritual, and Faith needs, no matter the time of year. This summer has been an expensive one for us. First came the routine maintenance items that had to be attended to, sealing and restriping the parking lot, pointing the front of the staircase going into the church and having some sidewalk issues tended to (leveling, and grinding down of some pieces). Then at the request of some members we looked into having some railings made for the stairs near the Altar. Finally, the surprise, we received a letter from our insurance company that the circuit breakers we had were known to fail, and they wanted to know what we were going to do about it.

Well I'm pleased to say that all of these matters have been taken care of, but there was the unexpected expenses that went with taking care of them. The handrails are being made and will be installed later this month. The electrical problems have been corrected, new boxes and breakers put in. The cost for the handrails was approximately \$800.00, and to correct the electrical system was another \$4,500.00.

I bring these items to your attention only because I think we overlook sometimes the expenses involved in maintaining our Church home. None of likes getting these kind of surprises in the home we live in, but I sometimes think that our church home is put in second place because we are not there every day. Our weekly giving has been down for the summer, which is not uncommon, but usually we see an increase in giving towards the end of summer and of course the start of the new Sunday school year, unfortunately that has yet to happen. So if any of you would like to donate to help offset these expenses it would be greatly appreciated.

On a more positive note Council has increased our number by one, Chris Jankowski has offered his services to the church as the liaison between the youth and the Council. His term will expire in January at which time we will have a vote for a full year term for this position at the annual meeting. Another positive note for our youth is Ms. Jessica Mason is leading a new Senior High, post Confirmation discussion group that will meet each Sunday morning during the 9:00 service. This is especially exciting as the youth have not had such a class for a long time.

Our Ushers, as of this writing have increased their numbers by 3, this too is positive as our Usher ranks have been decreasing in numbers over the past few years.

But as always, we are always looking for Altar Guild members (see Julia Levy), Choir members (see myself or Patrick Gard), Bell Ringers (see Patrick Gard), and help in general with some of the activities we do around the church from year to year. Everyone is always welcome to participate and help out with all or any of the programs throughout the year.

We are off to a good start, let's make it better than ever.

God Bless

George A. Roeser

## **CRAFT BEER AND WINE TASTING**

The Familial Cancer Foundation is having a Craft Beer and Wine Tasting event on Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 10:00 at Tewksbury Lodge, 249 Ohio Street, Buffalo. They will have tastings from local breweries and select wines, live music, raffles and more! Tickets are \$45. For more info, please see Andrea Whitmarsh or go to their website: [www.fcfwny.org](http://www.fcfwny.org)

## **Luther Rose Symbolism**

Luther's words: I shall answer most amiably and tell you my original thoughts and reason about why my seal is a symbol of my theology.

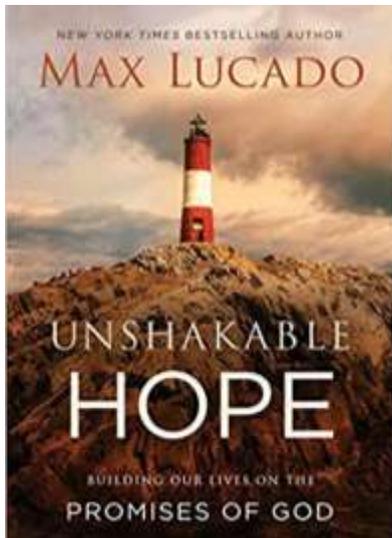
The first should be a black cross in a heart, which retains its natural color, so that I myself would be reminded that faith in the Crucified saves us. 'For one who believes from the heart will be justified' (Romans 10:10). Although it is indeed a black cross, which mortifies and which should also cause pain, it leaves the heart in its natural color. It does not corrupt nature, that is, it does not kill but keeps alive. 'The just shall live by faith' (Romans 1:17) but by faith in the Crucified.

Such a heart should stand in the middle of a white rose, to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. In other words, it places the believer into a white, joyous rose, for this faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). That is why the rose should be white and not red, for white is the color of the spirits and the angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12).

Such a rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that such joy in spirit and faith is a beginning of the heavenly future joy, which begins already, but is grasped in hope, not yet revealed.

And around this field is a golden ring, symbolizing that such blessedness in Heaven lasts forever and has no end. Such blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and goods, just as gold is the most valuable, most precious and best metal.





## Worship on Wednesday to focus on Hope

What is shaking in your world? Possibly your future, your faith, your family, your health? It's a shaky world out there. Beginning on September 12<sup>th</sup> our Wednesday Worship Service will be focusing on hope, using Max Lucado's new book: "Unshakable Hope."

As Max says:

We are building our lives on the promises of God.  
Because his word is unbreakable, our hope is unshakable.  
We do not stand on the problems of life or the pain in life,  
We stand on the great and precious promises of God.

**Meets on Wednesdays at 7:30pm**

**All are welcome!**

Please remember to save your DASH register tapes. Dash's super market gives the congregation \$2.50 for each \$100 of purchases. These "rebates" are used for Youth group and incidental expenses such as the women's retreat. St Paul's began participating in the program in 2005. We have received over \$12,000 in rebates. This is an important program for the youth and the women's retreat. Please save your register tapes. They can be deposited in the cigar box on the table outside of the narthex or in the large manila envelope on the bulletin board in the Social Hall.



**Anna Kuehfus** and **Blake Langlotz** made their First Communion during the Family Service on Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Congratulations to them both!



## October Mission Opportunity: 500 for 500 to benefit Family Justice Center

**500 for 500 collection** - St Paul's is participating in a project called 500 for 500. This project is to collect 500 food items and \$500 will be donated to the benefiting organization. Thrivent Financial is a fraternal Christian organization that is the project's sponsor. (As a fraternal organization Thrivent must donate its profits toward charity each year.) Our agency to receive the \$500 is the family Justice center and the cans will be divided between a variety of food pantries (Friends of the Night People, Hearts for the Homeless, etc.) The Sunday school introduced the project on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Faith White is coordinating the project.

**Please bring your items to church on Sundays in October or drop them off at church any weekday morning between 8 am and Noon. We look forward to seeing the donations grow in number.**

### 500 for 500 SHOPPING LIST

SAUCES, BROTH AND VEGETABLES		PASTA, BREAD CRUMBS, AND RICE	
	Diced Tomatoes (any brand)		No-Boil Lasagna ( <b>Barilla</b> preferred)
	Tomato Puree ( any brand)		Elbows ( any brand)
	Crushed Tomatoes( any brand)		Medium Egg Noodles (any brand)
	Tomato Sauce ( any brand)		Long Grain Rice ( <b>Uncle Ben's</b> preferred)
	Medium Salsa ( any brand)		Unseasoned Bread Crumbs (any brand)
	Black Beans (any brand)		Seasoned Bread Crumbs (any brand)
	Red Kidney Beans (any brand)		Panko Bread Crumbs (any brand)
	Pinto Beans (any brand)		All Purpose Flour (Pillsbury or any brand)
	Diced Green Chiles ( <b>Ortega</b> preferred)		
	Chili Sauce ( <b>Heinz</b> preferred)		
Swanson Natural Goodness Chicken Broth ( <b>THIS BRAND ONLY PLEASE</b> )			
SPICES, OILS AND CONDIMENTS			
	Basil, Dried (McCormack or any brand)		Dijon Mustard (Wegmans or any brand)
	Chili Powder (McCormack or any brand)		Lime Juice ( <b>ReaLime</b> preferred)
	Crushed Red Pepper (any brand)		Vegetable Oil (Wegmans or any brand)
	Ground Coriander (McCormack/any brand)		Extra Virgin Olive Oil (Wegmans/any brand)
	Ground Cumin (McCormack or any brand)		
	Oregano, Dried (McCormack or any brand)		



## Consider an online option for receiving The Voice

The Church Council is considering offering the St. Paul's newsletter online.

### Advantages to emailing The Voice include:

#### Cost savings on...

- Copy paper – Even though we buy paper when it's on sale at the lowest price available, the cost adds up when we do a large-volume mailing.
- Ink – Ink cartridges are expensive and we use a lot of ink for our newsletter.
- Copier usage – We are charged for the number of copies we make, a cost that adds up quickly.
- Mailing supplies such as labels and seals

#### Time savings on...

- Printing – It takes a few hours to print the newsletter, time that could be better spent otherwise.
- Preparation for mailing – We have a few volunteers who assemble the newsletter, but even with a lot of help it takes a couple of hours to get everything ready to mail.
- Delivering the newsletter to the post office – To get the best price, Pastor Wendy has to drive to the Buffalo Post Office with the trays of newsletters.

#### Environmental savings...

Think of all those trees we could save by not using so much paper!

If you would like to receive The Voice electronically, please provide us with your email address on the form below — or indicate that you would prefer to receive it by regular mail. **Please let us know your preference as soon as possible so we can determine how to proceed.**

----- cut here -----

Please check (✓) box below and return to the church office:

I/We would like to receive the newsletter by email.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

I/We would like to receive The Voice by regular mail.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**ALTAR FLOWERS (\$40) — Open dates:  
November 18 & 25 and December 9 & 23**

Forms are on the table in the narthex & foyer,  
or you can just call the office to reserve a date.

**BOOK CLUB** will meet upstairs in the Friendship Room on Sunday, November 19 at 3:00pm to discuss *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann, a novel about the Osage murders and the birth of the FBI. Our hostess will be Nancy Lawler and all are welcome to join us! Questions? Please call Ellen Pachioli at 636-9786.

**WHODUNIT DINNER THEATRE** to benefit Lutheran Charities  
“Murder in the Undercroft” – Save the date!

**Dinner, Drama & Dessert!**

Ripa’s Restaurant, 4218 Walden Ave., Lancaster  
Dinner Performance – November 9  
Matinee & Dinner Performances – November 10  
Artisan desserts for purchase! Basket Raffles!

**OCTOBER PRAYER LIST**

Dick Atkins	Marge Kolb, Harris Hill
Diane Busdiecker	Jim Murray
Les Busdiecker	Eva Paulson
Dick Edwards	Art Plant
Ursula Grau	Kim Retallack
Beverly Heinricher	Tony Rizzo
Pearl Kibler	Pat Valentine
Holly Kolb	

**OUR SYMPATHY** is extended to the family and friends of St. Paul’s member Clarence Ostwald, who died on Saturday, September 19. Funeral Service was held on September 27<sup>th</sup> at Church.

**WE RECEIVED A LETTER** from Debbi & Ray Hopkins, who recently moved to Greensboro, North Carolina (please see the bulletin board in the foyer and social hall).

**The deadline for our November edition of *The Voice* is Monday, October 22, 2018**

Please send your articles to [stpaulsvoice@yahoo.com](mailto:stpaulsvoice@yahoo.com) or put in our box in the office.

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