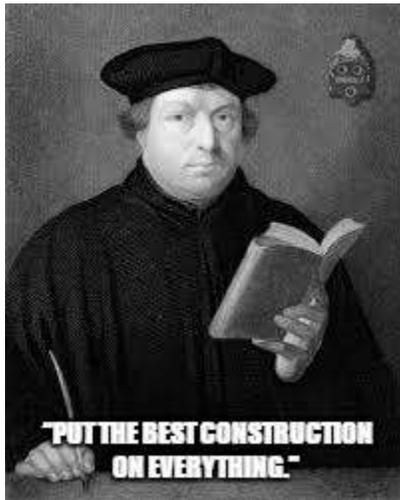




## The Voice

of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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### September 2018

If you haven't dusted off the Small Catechism of Martin Luther in a little while, we wanted to remind you of one of the real jewels of Lutheran theology found there. It comes in Luther's explanation of the 8<sup>th</sup> commandment. He writes: The Eighth Commandment: "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." He asks: "What does this mean?" He answers: "We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light."

In the polarized society in which we live, we are daily surrounded by those who do just the opposite. People who want to put the actions of their neighbor in the worst possible light. Our polarizations are fueled by people who are driven by agendas. Think about that terrible report that just became public about the large number of priests in Pennsylvania accused of sexually abusing over a thousand victims. How challenging it is to put that report in the best possible light. Or think about local politician Chris Collins, recently indicted for insider trading. How would you put that news in the best possible light?

What Martin Luther was onto in his 8<sup>th</sup> commandment musings was this. Every human being has been created by God. Every human being is a child of God. As mentioned last month, every human being is a sinner, in need of God's mercy and forgiveness. How we keep relationships, mend relationships, foster relationships in this kind of world, is to treat one another as brothers and sisters in the family of God.

This does not mean that we turn a blind eye to sin or crime or corruption. In the case of those victimized by the priests, we must weep and mourn and resolve to create systems that will better protect children. But we also recognize that priests do not become priests to molest children, that they somehow lost their way in what should have been holy work. Their lives, and in many cases their faith, have been ruined by their sin.

Politicians live in a culture of power, and we know power corrupts. While holding Mr. Collins accountable for his misdeeds, can we not also understand how easily tempted someone like him could be in the current climate of Washington?

If we are ever going to be able to find our way to a gentler, more civil discourse in our country, Luther has a pretty good insight. Put the deeds of your neighbor in the best possible light.

Pastor Wendy and Tim

## Mission message

### **SEPTEMBER 21: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE**

Global migration has reached unprecedented numbers, and cultural polarization is only one result, resulting in conflicts between neighbors. Lutherans in Liberia, Zimbabwe, South Sudan, and Columbia are leading the way in moving people beyond conflict toward reconciliation.

Liberia: When the 15-year civil conflict ended in 2003, women who had been instrumental in ending it formed a group called Women in Peacebuilding Network. In fact, one of the women, Leymah Gbowee, a member of the Lutheran Church in Liberia, won the Nobel Peace Prize. They monitor the progress of the peace agreement between the government and the rebel leaders, document violations, and intervene with actions of peace and reconciliation.

Zimbabwe: Zimbabwean churches historically have aided the victims of politically motivated violence, but in order to help prevent the violence, they launched the Ecumenical Church Leaders Forum, led by retired Bishop Ambrose Moyo of the ELCZ. 88 local committees are now in place, trained in conflict prevention, management, resolution and peace building.

Colombia: In 2016, a peace agreement was reached between the government and a guerilla group, after more than 50 years of conflict. The House of Reconciliation and Peace Education was founded last year by Emmaus Lutheran Church. Its vision is to preach the gospel and to live out the gospel in the community, so they are teaching the people in the neighborhood to resolve conflicts peacefully.

S. Sudan: Regional violence in S. Sudan has forced people to flee, only to find they become neighbors of people from their rival ethnic group. Last year, the Lutheran Center opened in Juba, the capital, offering worship, education, health care, and healing. School children have quiet place to do homework, women are learning to sew, and medical staff attends to the ailing. It gives them hope for the future, and, in turn, a reason not to pick up firearms and fight.

The ELCA directly or indirectly supports these initiatives. Your mission support helps bring peace to places that have known lifetimes of war. ***Thank you!***

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



News from the Niagara Lutheran Health System  
&  
The GreenFields Continuing Care Community

5959 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14208/ Tel: (716) 684-0202/ Fax: (716) 206-0484

[www.NiagaraLutheran.org](http://www.NiagaraLutheran.org)

Contact: Kristen Glieco, Development & Pastoral Care Assistant: 684-0202 or

[kglieco@niagaralutheran.org](mailto:kglieco@niagaralutheran.org)

\*News from the Niagara Lutheran Health System and The GreenFields Continuing Care Community that we hope you will cut & paste and share with members of your congregation through your bulletins and newsletters.\*

Visit us online at [www.NiagaraLutheran.org](http://www.NiagaraLutheran.org)

Or

Find us on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/niagaralutheran.org](http://www.Facebook.com/niagaralutheran.org)

We email this update to congregations for which we have an email address. If you'd like to be added to that list, call Kristen Glieco at 684-0202 ext. 1801 or email at [kglieco@niagaralutheran.org](mailto:kglieco@niagaralutheran.org).

*A Walk to Remember*

**GreenField Manor – 5953 Broadway, Lancaster**

For a second year, the GreenFields Continuing Care Community will unite with the Western New York Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association to fight back against the devastation caused by Alzheimer's disease. Be a part of the fight and join us for 'A Walk to Remember' on **Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM** as we honor a very special group of people- our residents and families who are living with Alzheimer's disease. We will walk a ceremonial lap around the campus to recognize those who are fighting and to remember those that we have lost too soon. Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ will be available via drive-thru pick up for \$10 per meal. All proceeds raised will help the Alzheimer's Association fund groundbreaking research, and to provide education, free information and supportive services to those who need them.

## Book Club News

Book Club will meet Sunday, September 16 at 3:00pm upstairs in the Friendship Room to discuss A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman.

Our hostess is Julia Levy and all are welcome! Questions? Please call Ellen Pachioli at 636-9786.

## Parish News

Edward C. Jacobi died August 7, 2018. The funeral was held at St. Paul's on August 11.

## Ladies Aid News

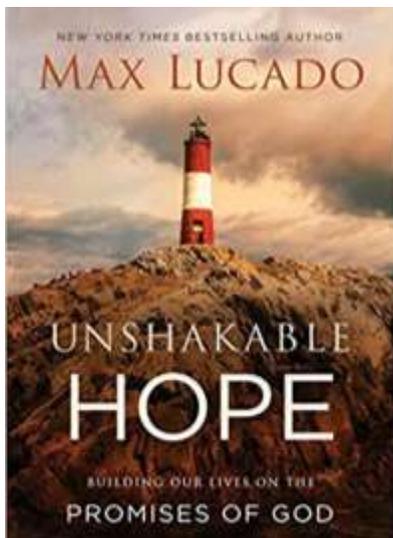
Ladies Aid Quilting will resume on Tuesday, September 11 at 9:30 AM.

## Mum Sale

The first fundraiser for the Youth Gathering in 2021 is underway. They are selling gorgeous mum plants for \$8 with all proceeds going to the Youth Gathering. Colors available are Red, Yellow, White, Orange and Purple. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>. The mums will be available for pickup at the church Saturday Sept 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday Sept 16<sup>th</sup>. You can find order forms in your weekly bulletin or on the table by the office.

## News from the Women of ELCA

The Women of ELCA Niagara Frontier Conference & Southwestern Conference will present "Unwrapping Our Spiritual Gifts on Saturday, Sept. 22 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 6360 Route 242E, Ellicottville, NY from 9:30 to 3:30. Cost is \$20 and lunch will be provided. Guest speaker will be Pete Hill, a member of the Cayuga Nation/Heron Clan. Discover individual spirituality, explore Native American spirituality and Celebrate the Holy Spirit in worship and fellowship as women of faith. Registration deadline is September 10, 2018. Contact Ruth Schmidt, (716)827-8694 for more details.



## 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.

**Starts Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm**

**All are welcome!**



**In an effort to save costs, the Church Council is thinking about offering the newsletter on-line. Of course we will still provide a mail-able copy for those who are not online themselves. Please send us your email address so we can determine if we have enough to make a saving on mailing costs. Call the office or drop it by Sunday, September 16th.**



**Read it online!**



## Waffle Church Concludes With Neighborhood Food Drive



Waffle Church came to an end on Sunday, Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> with the neighborhood food drive. Together with help from the congregation, nearly forty bags of food were collected and taken to St. Luke's Mission of Mercy  
**THANK YOU!**





## Food Drive to Support FJC in October

Thrivent Financial is offering congregations the opportunity to give physical and financial support to one agency or institution of the congregation's choosing, by participating in a food drive during the month of October. Every congregation which collects 500 non-perishable food items will be able to designate that a \$500 gift will also be given to the agency designated.

We've decided to make our agency the Family Justice Center of Erie County. We've been a supporting congregation ever since that opened their satellite office on Forest Road. Member Dave Nuzzo has been using his culinary talent to prepare fresh frozen meals for their food pantry, so it seems like a natural fit to choose them to benefit. You'll hear more as we near October, but through Thrivent, this seems like an easy win-win situation for our congregation and for the FJC.

## September means Sunday School and Rally Day are just around the corner.

Make your plans now to attend the annual Rally Day celebration at St. Paul's on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. Worship begins at 9:00am with the children in attendance. The Sunday School teachers and staff will be blessed and the children will be dismissed to meet their teachers. The Rally commences after worship with food and fun galore! Don't miss it!



The last of our "Summer Praise" 10:30 am services in the Friendship Room will be on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. Beginning on Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, worship will be in the church sanctuary each week at 9:00am and 10:30am.



**Building  
&  
Grounds**

It has been a busy summer for the property crew at St Paul's. There have been a number of projects to keep the building and grounds in tip top shape. The keypad on the office door had to be replaced. There was cement work on the sidewalks and the front stairs to maintain them. The parking lot was leveled and sealed and painted. Three electrical boxes were replaced as mandated by our insurance company. Thank you to Marty Nowak for the painting of the Garage and Lee Clukey for fixing the back stair railing.

There is other work to be done such as some yard work including trimming of bushes and removal of a dead tree. Work to be done in the sanctuary includes railings that will be installed on the steps leading to the altar and patching the ceiling paint.

As you can imagine this amount of work though necessary is costly. We blew our property maintenance budget by 10K. So whatever help you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

(summer has traditionally been a time when our deficit has built up. If you have been blessed enough to be able to contribute above and beyond your usual giving to help with these extra expenses, we would be very grateful—Pr. Tim)

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.





Due to the culinary skills of Corn Cooker Marty Nowak, and hot dog griller Bob Habermehl, St. Paul's was able to enjoy our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Corn Roast on August 19<sup>th</sup>. The delicious desserts, snacks, and salads provided by everyone who came, added to the joy. Due to the heavy rains that moved in over Friday night, we were downstairs for the first time ever. If you didn't make it this year. Plan to join us next August.

