

Highfield Happenings

August
2025



“Cast all your anxiety on God, because He cares for you.”--1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)

VBS Theme: “True North: Trusting Jesus In A Wild World”



Lately I have been using a daily devotional—“*God Is With You Every Day*,” written by Max Lucado, a preacher, teacher, and writer. Max's writings are down to earth, easy to understand, yet at the same time, full of wisdom, truth, demonstrating the reality and power of God's love for us.

Let me give you a condensed version of one of his daily devotions entitled “Chaos”:

Picture this scenario: It's breakfast time, and the family is in chaos. The daughters are complaining because their brother took too long in the bathroom and they still have hair to fix and makeup to put on. Mom is doing her best to manage the conflict, but she woke up with a raging headache and a laundry list of things to be done. The clock is ticking like a time bomb...getting closer every minute until “boom!” it's time for everyone to leave. Dad stops, looking into the kitchen and sees and hears the chaos. He weighs his options: 1) He can shout for everyone to calm down and get their act together; 2) He can berate his son for not thinking of his sisters, berate his daughters for not getting up earlier, and berate his wife for not managing the chaos; 3) He can sneak out the door before anyone sees him. OR, he could say a short prayer—“Father, You are good. We need help. Reduce the frenzy in our house, please. Amen.”

Will the prayer change every thing? It may. It might take many more prayers to change things, but at least the problem will be in the Hands of the One who can solve it! *

We live in a wild world that is full of chaos---some of it we create ourselves, but some chaos is outside of our control. Whether we are children just learning to trust Jesus or we are adults struggling to hang onto our faith in the chaos, taking it all to the Lord in prayer is the most sensible thing to do—because He cares for and about you.

With love and prayers,
Pastor Chris

*The Rev.
Christina A. Bridge*

* God Is With You Every Day, Max Lucado, Thomas Nelson Publisher, 2015, p. 327

MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED VBS THROUGH GIFTS OF TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, YOUR PRAYERS!

St. Paul's Highfield Lutheran Church
Congregation of the Southwestern PA Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
1595 Dime Road, Vandergrift, PA 15690
Phone: 724.567.7462
Email: hifielts@comcast.net
www.stpaulshighfield.org



Vision Statement

Spreading the good news of
Jesus Christ by living out our
faith in worship, support, and
service to all people.

Mission Statement

SPHLC—
Spiritual
People
Helping
Lead others to
Christ

Parish Staff

Reverend Christine Bridge—Interim Pastor
217 Meadow Lane
Murrysville, PA 15668
Office: 724-567-7462
Cell: 848-467-6556
Email: darluz223@yahoo.com

Gregg LeMay—Director of Music 724-567-7462

Pam Neale—Financial Secretary 724-664-0164

Nicole Ashbaugh—Sexton 724-842-7376

Janine Ballish—Secretary / Treasurer 724-567-7462

Office hours: Wednesdays and Fridays
9:00 am-3:00 pm

*Hours are subject to change for holidays,
etc.*

*If you have questions
or concerns, please
discuss them with one
of the members listed
below.*

Pam Neale—President
Gerry LeMay—Vice President
Robin Stoltz—Secretary
Patty Biss Bill McGinnis
Chris Cominos Nicole Ashbaugh
Judy Grinder Allen Leard



Besides in person, you can join us for a live
stream on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am on:



St. Paul's Highfield Lutheran Church

The Altar Flowers:
for June were given by Shelby and Taylor
Riggles in memory of Bonnie Shuster;
for July were given by Stan & Glenda Givens in
memory of our Loved Ones.

Calendar of Causes—Each month we raise up a social ministry supported within our Synod. The loose offering collected on the first Sunday of the month will go to this cause. Also, envelopes are located in the narthex for you to make a donation at any time during the month.

August's cause is United Lutheran Seminary. United Lutheran Seminary is a welcoming and diverse learning community equipping people to proclaim the living Gospel for a changing church and world. Learn more at unitedlutheranseminary.edu.

Please Save...your toilet paper rolls for a Pink Day activity. Thank you!

Kittanning Community Band 2025 Summer Concert Schedule

Saturday, August 2, 1:00-2:30 pm
@ Kittanning Folk Festival

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Kittanning Community Band is made up of students, teachers, musicians, professionals and retirees from all walks of life. The band is open to anyone ages 14 to 116. For more information, visit our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/kittanningcommunityband.
Jason Venesky, Music Director

All are welcome to join us for our last **Summer Midweek Worship service** on Wednesday, August 20,
6:00 pm Meal 7:00 pm Worship

BOOK REVIEW

Have you thought about going to Cape Cod on a vacation? Maybe visit the small town of Ivy Ba?. Maybe take a tour of the historic homes, businesses and gristmill?

In ***Reading the Clues*** by Charlotte Carter, two sisters own a bookshop in the town of Ivy Bay. One sister, Betty, receives notice that she is being sued and that the Emerson Grist Mill which was in her husband's family for centuries is not rightfully hers. An alleged Bill of Sale has turned up after all of these decades but it won't be revealed until the court hearing. Meanwhile, Mary, the other sister is determined to solve the mystery before the judge has to make a determination. There is an alleged murder that occurred in 1841. Who placed a Revolutionary War red coat and 1775 coins in a false wall in the grist mill? Under floor boards in the mill, a ledger for the mill was found. But it needed to be deciphered by experts.

This is an enjoyable, easy read for summer pleasure.

In Sympathy—We express our deepest sympathy to the family of Michael Leard, Allen Leard's brother, who passed away on Wednesday, July 9.

"I am the resurrection and the life," says our Lord. "Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11:25-26, NRSV).

POSTER FOUND IN A CHURCH IN FRANCE..(TRANSLATED)

When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear the call of God. However it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile.

Thank you for turning off your phones.

If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him.

If you want to see Him, send Him a text whilst driving.

STEWARDSHIP

Contributions



GIVING VS. BUDGET FIGURES 2025

NEED \$2,009.96 WEEKLY TO BREAK EVEN

	CURRENT DEPOSIT	NEEDED	OVER / (SHORT)	YTD OVER/(SHORT)	ATTENDANCE In person/online
January	\$8,270.00	\$8,039.84	\$230.16	\$230.16	226 / 23
February	\$6,875.00	\$8,039.84	\$(1,164.84)	\$(934.68)	210 / 19
March	\$9,801.00	\$10,049.80	\$(248.80)	\$(1,183.48)	280 / 18
April	\$8,947.00	\$8,039.84	\$907.16	\$(276.32)	267 / 11
May	\$6,037.00	\$8,039.84	\$(2,002.84)	\$(2,279.16)	204 / 12
June	\$9,101.00	\$10,049.80	\$(948.80)	\$(3,227.96)	254 / 20

The above totals do not include any designated giving for specific ministries.
They only include the money given to support the 2025 budget.
If you have any questions, please call me ~ *Janine Ballish, Treasurer*

A monetary donation was given to Vacation Bible School in memory of
Bonnie Shuster

St. Paul's Highfield Prayer List

Carol Swarc	Jaycee
Family of Joyce Ward	Jerry Bish, Jr
Jen Bridge	Marianne Rossi
Helen Novak	Pauline Hutton
Blair Shick	David Frew
Kathryn Olinger	Marietta Blongeaux
Family of Tammy Moon	MaryJo Mazanek
Carol Ramer	Shawn Craig
Michael Rossi	Crystal Aul
Ed Dobrowolski	Dot Schaeffer
Frank Raspotnik	Beth Stone
Dylan Eckman	Karen Koller
Neal Smith	Nancy Hart
Michele Stefanik	Doug Rearick
Jim Hutton	Dona Ramer
Michelle Biss	Andy Johns
Randy Bright	Frank Mooney
Tom	Justin Kennedy
Family of Jean Knepshield	Melanie Hickey
Congregation of Evangelical, Worthington, &	Ronnie
Pastor William Moser	Ann Krafick
Jane Broda	Gary Pilkington
Patrick	

FOOD BANK ITEMS

Below is a complete list of items for you to keep at home of the items that our food bank needs:

Thank you in advance for any help you can offer.
God Bless—"The Food Bank Club"

Boxed or canned potatoes	Canned vegetables—corn, peas, green beans
Canned fruit	Canned soup—tomato, chicken noodle, vegetable beef
Pasta & Pasta sauce	Peanut butter & Jelly
Cereal	Toilet paper
Macaroni & Cheese	Paper towels
Rice mixes	Hygiene products - toothpaste, soap, etc
Canned tuna, chicken or ham	
Canned baked beans or kidney beans	

This ministry is made possible in part by the Ethel L. Verney Fund of the SWPA synod.



@ ST. PAUL'S HIGHFIELD

Don't forget to include our confined members in your prayers.
Names, addresses, and birthdays are listed below.

Jean and Linda Bozzarelli
(February 27, October 2)
112 Oregon Avenue
Vandergrift, PA 15690

LaRue Ciuca
1147 Crawford Avenue
Vandergrift, PA 15690

Martha Abarbanell
(May 31)
1166 Pleasant View Drive
Vandergrift, PA 15690

Kathye Schaeffer
(December 29)
Quality Life Services
151 Goodview Drive
Room #318
Apollo, PA 15613

Evelyn McGuire
(August 2)
Concordia Lutheran Ministries
615 North Pike Road
Building 4, Room 2306
Cabot, PA 16023

Faithfulness: The Stewardship Standard

“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful” (1 Cor. 4:2).

What is the standard to which a steward is held? Ask the average person, and they might talk about percentages, tithes, and commitments. Too often, the default mode of measuring stewards is by how much and how frequently they give. This is not helpful. Measuring activity without any connection to baptismal identity is a recipe for disaster. It can either breed a sense of superiority and self-righteousness or create a culture of scarcity and despair. Neither outcome is godly or helpful.

This is not to say that stewardship should be regarded as "no big deal." St. Paul, within his discussion of the ministry to which he has been called, sets the standard of accountability for the steward: faithfulness. This removes any sense of superiority or self-righteousness and dispels scarcity and despair. When a steward manages what the Lord has entrusted to them — resources and all aspects of life — for God's purposes, the focus is not on how much or how frequently they give.

This standard reflects the stewardship portrayed in the Gospels where Jesus entrusts varying amounts, each according to ability. The commended stewards were recognized for their faithfulness in their vocation, not the amounts they managed. Conversely, the condemned stewards were not castigated for their lack of performance but for their lack of faithfulness.

What does this mean for the steward in the pew? The Lord has entrusted you with various things. Luther captures them in his explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed and the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer. The familiar couplets of food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals and all possessions are the Lord's, and He has entrusted them to you for His purpose. This trust brings an active realization of thanksgiving.

This active thanksgiving is our stewardship. It can be distilled into two questions that the steward regularly needs to answer:

1. How has God blessed me?
2. How is He calling me to respond?

The first question is quite simple to answer: if the Lord has entrusted something to you, it is a blessing. This blessing is for God's glory and the benefit of your neighbor. The second question is more challenging to measure; it is not about percentages and charts. Instead, it is about a life of thanksgiving that flows from the mercies of God revealed in Jesus Christ. This thanksgiving starts at and flows from the cross and the empty tomb. Our stewardship of the Gospel drives our stewardship of everything else.

The standard, then, is faithfulness. Faithfulness flows from eyes focused on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. It does not come from our efforts but through the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives, through Word and Sacrament. It begins at the altar in the Divine Service but extends into the world — from hearth and home to workplace and classroom, from commerce to leisure. The mercy of God, freely given in Jesus, leads us to demonstrate a faithfulness that reveals to others the same mercy we have received in Jesus.

This faithfulness cannot be measured empirically. It is simply allowing the Holy Spirit to work in and through us for the glory of God and the benefit of our neighbor. Weekly. Daily. Faithfully.

Farewell Celebration for Bishop Kusserow

Sunday, August 10

Lutherlyn (500 Lutherlyn Lane, Butler, PA, 16001)

Give thanks for the steadfast and faithful leadership of Bishop Kurt Kusserow, who has shepherded our shared work for 18 years. Join for any or all of the activities; this will be an open-house style gathering where you may come and go as you please.

Worship: 2 PM @ Amphitheater

A shuttle from the main office will be available beginning at 1:30 PM for those who would like assistance getting to the amphitheater. (Rain Location: Chapel)

Reception: 3:30 @ Dining Hall

Please contribute to the cookie table by bringing a dozen cookies to share.

Campfire: 4:30 PM @ Friendship Circle

Top off the afternoon with a classic campfire at the fire pit located directly in front of the dining hall. (Rain Location: Dogwood Pavillion)

Lutheran Disaster Response - You've likely seen the devastating news about the catastrophic flash floods in South Central Texas. Our hearts break as we learn of the damage, loss of life and ongoing search for survivors. We join Bishop Sue Briner's (bishop of the Southwestern Texas Synod) call to "pray, pray, pray" for those who are still lost as well as the families of those who are lost, who have died, or who have experienced loss of home or property."

As ever and with your support, our church stands ready to walk with our neighbors in the Texas hill country as the floodwaters recede and rebuilding begins. Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Southwestern Texas Synod and will work with them and other partners to respond to urgent needs, provide emotional and spiritual care, and support cleanup and long-term recovery. Please use the attached form and mail it to St. Paul's Highfield or directly to Lutheran Disaster Response.

Bishop Installation Service for Rev. Melissa Stoller

Saturday, October 18: 1 PM

Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church

517 Sangree Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15237

By the grace of Almighty God, your prayers and presence are requested at a celebration of the rite of installation for Pastor Melissa Stoller into the ministry of Synod Bishop.

Join the Choir: Volunteer to be a part of the synod-wide choir at the installation service.

YES, I WANT TO HELP!

☐ Lutheran Disaster Response \$ _____ DDG0060

☐ U.S. Flooding \$ _____ DDG0069

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Email address _____

Scan to
give online



Give through your congregation, by phone (800-638-3522) or by mail. Checks or money orders can be mailed to
**Lutheran Disaster Response, P.O. Box 1809,
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.**

BI-LDRFLOOD25

All are welcome to join us



6:00 pm Meal 7:00 pm Service

Wednesday, August 20

Midweek Outdoor Worship

9:00 am in person and Facebook

Sunday Mornings

Join us for worship



St. Paul's Highfield Lutheran Church

1595 Dime Road
Vandergrift, PA 15690

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Vandergrift PA
Permit No. 31

