



**"Proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable."**

*- Paul's second letter to Timothy*

# The Messenger

## God's Work. Our Hands.

Summer 2017

A congressman and four others were shot in May while practicing for a friendly baseball game. The tone of public discourse has continually declined over many years. To me, a large part of this has been Cable News which added a new drive for profit and ratings. I always remember when cable news anchor Bernard Shaw asked Michael Dukakis if his views on crime would be affected if his own wife was raped and murdered. The expanding media environment seems to create a more brutal competition. Everyone wants to go "viral," -- an appropriate term -- to get millions of viewers. The field of participants in media is so crowded that the rules of responsible reporting and decorum can't generally be enforced.

As bad as this technology is making our political climate, it's really about us, what we will watch, what we will respond to. We have met the enemy and it is us. A greater voice and more power is being placed in our hands.

Our world is changing. We feel powerless to affect the pace. We can and should complain about changes that are not for the better but we cannot turn back the clock or even try to stay as we are. Our world is changing and we must discern how our age-old beliefs apply to today's landscape. More and more we hear about Red States and Blue States as we separate ourselves into rival camps. Our church, like most, is decidedly purple. This means that we will increasingly be a place that is unique in having people cross boundaries that are getting harder to surmount.

We also have a church that, from the Reformation certainly, has taken to the public square with a voice of moral clarity and spiritual perspective. The Bible is nothing if not a call to live in community in a more loving way. Check out resources from our church that step back from the shouted arguments and give thoughtful reflection on important issues.

[elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements](http://elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements) and  
[elca.org/advocacy](http://elca.org/advocacy)

If we want to know where help will come from look no further. We have met Christ and he is us.

Peace,  
Jim

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Pastor Jim O'Hanlon  
[johanlon.stpauls@gmail.com](mailto:johanlon.stpauls@gmail.com)

**Cell phone 917 803-3974**

Don Weber, Council President

Barbara Tormondsen, Administrator

Donna Smith, Secretary 914 939-8170

**Child Care Center** M-F 7:30am –5:30pm  
Children 6 weeks old to 5 years  
Suzanne Newcomb, Director  
914 939-3079

Daphne and Callie help out at the Child Care Center and likely reminisce about their time as students.



## Child Care Center



### Meet the staff

Miss Lois- Assistant 3's Teacher.  
Our newest staff member, she started working here in April. Lois has been a longtime resident of Rye and has many years of experience in the field of early childhood education. We are pleased to have Miss Lois at St. Paul's!



Bible story time at God's Green Earth, our creation themed Vacation Bible School.



Thanks for our helpers at **God's Green Earth** this year (two photos left) Liam (pictured), Wilda, Rhonda, Cara & Theo.



# Milestones

Congratulations to our  
**newborn**

Henry Powers!  
and **Newlyweds**  
Daisy & Lowell  
(left)

Ashley & Travis  
(below)

Frank & Lauren

**We said goodbye to**  
George Dunphy,  
and Doris Osterberg  
We pray for their families.



**Congratulations**  
**to our**  
**Confirmants**  
Daphne  
Trevor  
Edzani  
Brandon



# Birthdays

## August

1	Olivia Birittieri
2	Trevor Disbennett
3	Ross Disbennett
5	Veronica Scullion
5	Andy Richardson
8	Chip Gawle
9	Robert Trenck
9	Anita Charleswell
12	David Ridberg
14	Debra Ernst
15	Lillian Johnson
18	Edzani Kelapile
21	Ally Mark
21	Klara Severance
22	Cecilia Kelapile
26	William Schlosser
28	Erin Powers
29	Lorna O'Hanlon
31	Linda Armstrong

## September

1	Dave Brady
3	Bill Severance
4	Evin Eski
4	Philip Jenks
6	Muriel Guinta
6	Jason Hodge
8	Kevin Cosgrove
10	Thulani Boateng
10	Sally Wynne
13	Lukas Patrizio
13	Kate Richardson
13	John Makowski
23	Danielle Good-
	ing
24	Jean Fulton
24	Kara Hodge
27	Julia Rios
28	Don Weber
30	Renee Meads

### ***Our Church is the ELCA. Our congregation is St. Paul's.***

*In May, we had our annual day for a visiting preacher from the larger church. Past speakers have included representatives from Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education, Lutheran Social Services, Camp Koinonia, The Wartburg Adult Care Community and the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Also Kathleen Koran, Assistant to the Bishop of Metro NY and Bishop Elizabeth Eaton have worshiped with us. In May, our preacher was Rev. Percy Butiku, Assistant to the Bishop for Global and Multi-cultural Ministry. The Sunday Rev. Butiku was with us we were also visited by Rev. Delores McKay who had recently retired from the Wartburg Adult Care Community. We need to remember that we are not a "stand alone" congregation. I am not a "stand alone" pastor. Thanks be to God.*

### **Social Action Team**

A new group has been discussing the ways in which Lutherans involve themselves in discussions amongst themselves and in public about issues and events in our society. They have formed a Social Action Team and are going to present Temple Talks about Social Statements adopted by the ELCA and about how our faith helps us in discerning important issues. Philip started with a presentation on policies related to poverty and hunger with resources from "Bread for the World" [Bread.org](http://Bread.org). Kristin Quell-Garguilo did a presentation on current issues concerning the environment. If you are interested in doing a presentation or reading more for yourself check out

[elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements](http://elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements)





# ELCA Advocacy

Advocacy ministries of the ELCA want to share stories and your voices about public policies and relevant advocacy issues that are of interest to you.

## **We are called by God to protect all of creation. The Paris Agreement is a key tool in doing this on a global scale.**

ELCA Advocacy is deeply disappointed with administration's decision to begin the process of withdrawing from the Paris Agreement. The effects of climate change are being felt globally, and vulnerable and the marginalized populations are most impacted. These are communities who have contributed the least to the greenhouse gas emissions and are ill equipped to mitigate or adapt to the impacts of climate change. Our goal must be to develop and forge ahead with policies that safeguard against these impacts. We are called by God to protect all of creation. The Paris Agreement is a key tool in doing this on a global scale. It represents an unprecedented cooperation among world leaders to address one of the direst issues facing humanity and the rest of creation today. The viability of our planet is being threatened in extraordinary ways. Without action, we are relinquishing our responsibilities for the prosperity of future generations.

Overwhelming scientific evidence shows that human activity is contributing to climate change by emitting greenhouse gases that change the earth's atmosphere. This is causing the earth to warm, which results in climate changes never experienced before.

The stresses of climate change are real, impacting practically every fiber of our existence, including health, food security, water, hunger, agriculture, migration and national security. The Paris Agreement is landmark in international climate policy, and helps to set the agenda for action now and in the years to come. As a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, United States has an obligation to the world to address climate change. But the United States is also in a unique position to maintain its global leadership on international climate action. Inaction will allow the devastating effects of climate disruption to continue.

The requirement for the United States to maintain its global leadership presence could not be more urgent. Withdrawing from the Paris Agreement is contrary to our nation's principled character.

*<http://www.elca.org/advocacy>*



## The Bible in 50 words

God breathed  
Snake tricked  
Noah built  
Sarah laughed  
Jacob lied  
Joseph dreamed  
Moses floats  
Miriam sings  
Law given  
Ruth clung  
Deborah judged  
Nathan tells David  
Esther went in  
Jesus spoke  
Reign explained  
Crowds followed  
Tables thrown  
Disciples fled  
Nails pierce  
Crown bleeds  
Hope rose  
Spirit burns  
Paul sailed  
Lamb returns

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Mark your calendar  
**Saturday September 16**



Sent with a prayer to:

**St. Paul's**  
761 King Street at Comly Ave.  
Rye Brook, New York 10573  
(914) 939-8170

