

OCTOBER 2018

"I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Phil. 4:11b-13

What does contentment feel like? This is not an easy question to answer, especially in our 21st century culture. We are bombarded with marketing appeals designed to convince us that we are lacking something in our life, something that will make our life much better. And of course, what we are "lacking" turns out to be the product or service that is being promoted!

As a result of these marketing efforts, we gradually become convinced that we need to have more things or more time or more training in order to find fulfillment in life. When surveys ask "How much is enough?" responses consistently have been "Twenty percent more than I have now."

What a sad state of affairs! And yet, it seems things were not all that much different in St. Paul's day. Certainly in terms of quantity and quality, we have much "more" than the people of that time. But it's really all relative to how you perceive having "enough."

St. Paul is writing to the Philippians from a prison cell. If anyone should be questioning his prospects for the future, it is St. Paul. And yet, instead of wallowing in self pity, he writes those comforting words about being content.

Paul has hope for his future. He is confident of "success" in life. And why? Not because of the things he has, or the abilities he possesses; but because he knows that Christ will empower him to do what God has planned for him.

What does contentment feel like? It means trusting that you are the person God intends for you to be, that you are the congregation God intends you to be; and that you already have what is necessary to follow God's plan for your life. Ignore the ads. Don't envy the lifestyles of the rich and famous. Don't fret that you don't have large crowds like at megachurches. Having the good life is following Jesus Christ into the future of God, as that future unfolds especially for you and for St. Paul Third.

Pastor Paul

TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>SURPLUS/ (SHORTAGE)</u>
AUGUST	\$ 7,884.41	\$ 8,051.18	(\$ 166.77)
YEAR-TO-DATE	\$ 68,362.38	\$ 70,137.09	(\$ 1,774.71)

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Our new pastor, Rev. Daniel W. Brettell, was elected on Sunday, September 16, 2018. He will begin leading our worship services on Sunday, October 21, 2018. He will be in the office starting on Tuesday, October 16.

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BISHOP'S VISIT – OCTOBER 14

It is with great honor and excitement that we announce a *special service* scheduled for **October 14, 2018**.

Our 150th anniversary year celebration continues with the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod's **Bishop Rev. Dr. Samuel R. Zeiser in attendance and preaching at the 10:00 AM worship service.** Our own Rev.

Edith Roberts will be presiding at this service. A scrumptious brunch will be served following the service. All are welcome!

THANK YOU NOTES RECEIVED

- *Pat Steckel:* Thank you all so very much for the sympathy cards I received at the death of my 102-year-old mother. She will be missed terribly.
- *Suzanne Beck, Executive Director of the Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley:* Thank you and the entire congregation for your donation in the amount of \$696.90 from your rummage sale. Your gift will assist us greatly in providing services for victims of violence throughout the Lehigh Valley.

MILESTONES

BAPTISM

On Sunday, September 30, Evelyn Bea Higgins was baptized into the Lord's family. Her parents are Kelly and Russel Higgins, her big brother is Alexander James, and her grandmother is Cheryl Nielsen.

We receive her as a fellow member of the body of Christ, child of the heavenly father, and worker with us in the kingdom of God.

DEATH

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Pat Steckel and family on the death of her mother Lillian Bethman on August 23. Private services were held.

150th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

December 15: Children's Christmas party and a Family Christmas get-together

February: Valentine's Day theme

There are still some months in 2019 that are open for suggestions for activities. See Joyce Gosch with your ideas!

SOCIAL MINISTRY

CPR TRAINING

A CPR Training Class will be held on Tuesday, October 3, and Wednesday, October 4, from 6-10 PM. The church will pay the \$200 instruction cost. The fee is \$25 per person for the class. There are sign-up sheets on the table in the Gathering Area for the respective nights.

SMILING through your SENIOR YEARS

Make your golden years great years! Join us for an entertaining and uplifting afternoon with Lehigh Valley experts who will share strategies for mental, physical, and financial wellness. Join us on Sunday, October 7, from 2 to 4 PM in Fellowship Hall. There will be pie and ice cream. There is a sign-up sheet on the Information Table in the Narthex. This event is sponsored by our Thrivent representative, Kristen Edelman-Weiner.

SECOND SUNDAY

Remember that the second offering received during worship on the second Sunday of each month is used to support various social ministry agencies and issues in our local community, Synod, ELCA, and world. In September we collected \$132.00 for the Boys & Girls Club of Easton. **In October the recipient is Habitat for Humanity (Lehigh Valley Chapter).** Please continue to support these programs.

BETHLEHEM/EASTON MISSION INGATHERING

The Ingathering for the Bethlehem/Easton Mission District will be held on Wednesday, December 5, 2018. Our congregation's designated item is **180 bars of soap and 180 washcloths**. You can wrap each bar in a washcloth and fasten it with a rubber band or just donate the items and we will assemble them. To date, we have **169** wrapped soaps—with only 11 more needed. There are containers to collect these items in the Gathering Area.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Remember to bring canned and non-perishable goods for three area food banks—ProJeCt, Salvation Army, and St. Paul's Lutheran South Side ("12 Baskets Full"). There is a list of needed items next to the Food Bank collection basket on the table in the Gathering Area.

CENTER for ANIMAL HEALTH and WELFARE

The Center needs donations of towels, sheets, blankets, kitty litter, cat and dog food, laundry detergent, bleach, etc. and also animal toys. They depend almost entirely on donations to maintain their operation. No animal is euthanized unless absolutely necessary.

HOAGIE TICKETS

We are again selling tickets for 10-inch hoagies from Noto's Deli for \$5.50 each. There is a large selection from which to choose. They can be purchased from Carol Jiorle.

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TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK . . .

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 4. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night!

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 4

Each year on All Saints Sunday we remember the lives of those in our congregation who have died in the past year. For many, this special remembrance means a great deal and is comforting to them. We recognize that many of our members have lost loved ones who are outside our congregation, and we want to allow a chance to remember them, as well. So this year, if you have lost a loved one and would like to have them named during the time of remembrance and bell tolling, please contact the church office or fill out the form below and give us the name of your loved one and the date of death so we can include them in our time of remembrance. We pray that this special service will help you in the grieving process and let you know that others around you pray with you as you mourn your departed loved one. Please submit all requests to the church office by October 30.

Member's Name:

Name of Loved One:

Date of Death:

COMMUNITY GROWTH & FELLOWSHIP

FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS

On Tuesday, October 16, Boscov's will offer 25% off with a discount shopping pass purchased through the Community Growth & Fellowship Committee members. The passes cost \$5 each and all proceeds go to our church. See Carol Jiorle or one of the other committee members to purchase one.

DINNER for SAFE HARBOR

We are scheduled to prepare dinner here at the church and serve it at Safe Harbor on Sunday, October 21, at 6 PM. Watch for details in the weekly bulletins and look for sign-up sheets for food items needed and volunteers.

FROM the MUSIC DIRECTOR'S BENCH

I hope you're enjoying your Sunday mornings at church. The greetings of friends, the quiet time for meditation. I get to see a few of the early arrivals on Sunday (but at St. Paul's III early comers are few and far between). Then I go into full-on organist/director mode. Play the prelude music, check the narthex for stragglers, and be sure the pastor and choir are there before launching into the first hymn. Be ready with liturgy music, and don't pay too much attention to the prayers or the choir will be waiting for its accompaniment. By the time I finish the postlude, many people are already out of the building and on their way.

During a church service, there is always the next thing coming up—music to open and shift around without dropping it, stops to change and reset, and looking out for the next glitch, or the unexpected. Especially during this interim time, there's so much to keep on top of. (Is this the pastor who announces the hymns or not? Does this one mention it's time to sit for the offertory? Are there announcements before the service?)

An organist's mind can never wander, and my attention is more to the format and procedure than to the content of a service. Every now and then I've gotten caught up in what was being said, or let my mind wander to the application or impact of a passage of scripture to my own situation or problems, only to suddenly be aware of the profound silence as a congregation waited for me to start a hymn.

A church service isn't the refueling stop for me that it can be for you—it's work that needs *my* full attention to maximize *your* spiritual engagement.

So, are you enjoying your Sunday mornings at church? Take it from one who can't have the same experience you have—treasure it, and take advantage of all the things this time has to offer.