

# **Ziegels Lutheran Congregation Newsletter July/August 2019**

*The July/August newsletter is sponsored by  
the Meckes Family in loving memory of Joe.*

## **Entered Eternal Life**

Paul Kressley entered life eternal on June 6, 2019 at the age of 92 years, 9 months and 6 days. A service of thanksgiving for his life was held on June 14 and Keller's Funeral Home. The internment was held at Ziegels Union Cemetery with Pastor Andrew Meckstroth officiating. Please remember his wife Madeline, his children, and his extended family with your cards and prayers as they mourn his passing.

Paul Kressley entered life eternal on June 16, 2019 at the age of 70 years, 2 months and 9 days. A service of thanksgiving for his life was held on June 25 at Ziegels Union Church. The internment was held at Ziegels Union Cemetery with Pastor Andrew Meckstroth officiating. Please remember his wife Loretta, his children, and his extended family with your cards and prayers as they mourn his passing.

## **Congratulations**



On Saturday, June 29, Jennifer Esterly and Terry Hausman were united in marriage. Best wishes to them as they begin their new journey through life together!

**Educational Grant sponsors are needed.** If you would like to honor or memorialize a loved one, why not consider doing so by sponsoring an educational grant. Each grant will be \$200.00 and you are welcome to sponsor all or part of a grant. Please call Lori at the church office at 610-285-6157 for more information.

**A Lutheran Town Hall Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 11** at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Bishop Zieser and Pastor Peggy will be leading this meeting. We will review the Study Book that the Lutheran Call Committee has presented and the process. Discussion will be held on what the members want the Synod to know as they search for candidates for Ziegels. It is important that we have a supportive group of members attend to share their hopes for the Church. Please contact Lori or Kevin Taylor if you plan to come or would like more information.

**We are grateful for our members' financial support.** In May the contributions to our general fund totaled \$24,651.03 and our expenses totaled \$12,319.07. Our monthly budget total is \$21,713.02. Please give as you are able to support our ministry.

**Our next payment to the Union Church for the Organ Fund** will be due when the Organ arrives in July. We give thanks to all of you who have donated for the Organ, and more donations are needed to complete our payments.

**Thank you** to the following people who assisted with our worship services in May:

- Head Usher – Kim Lapp
- Worship Assistants – KellyAnn Purugganan, Kim Lapp and Kelly Lucarelli
- Lay Readers – Shawn Frederick-Beers, Frank Legath and Larry Geiger

## **Sponsors Are Needed!**

Can you help by sponsoring one of the following? It's a wonderful way to remember or honor a loved one.

- **Altar Flowers and Piano Vases** – Contact Gloria Hausman at 610-285-6741.
- **Bulletins** – Cost is \$18 per week. Contact Sandy Rothermel at 610-966-0712 or [Sandyravon@aol.com](mailto:Sandyravon@aol.com)

# The Money Thing? Again?!

I hate doing this. It is the worst part of my pastoral duty to be engaged in this particular exercise. It rubs me the wrong way and upsets my apple cart. And I don't want to do it, but someone has to, and it might as well be...(big sigh) be me. I need to talk about money.. and the church. (Yuck. I know.)

Now: let me clarify one thing. I do not often talk about money and the church – or even money and Christianity. Not here. I do talk about it with others – in the Finance Committee of the Moravian Church Northern Province, for instance, we talk about money more than half the time. And, with other pastors, I love exploring how the American Church developed its peculiar manner of self-funding, the weekly offering. But I almost never highlight the need we have to fund our congregation. I never tell people from the pulpit that they need to dig deep and give more. And I seldom write newsletter reminder articles about stewardship.

Until today. I guess. Though I really don't want to. The reality is, however, that money holds such significance in our lives that it is a mistake to never think about the relationship between our core beliefs and the way we treat money. So then, for that reason (and because the council wants me to) I am giving in and devoting a newsletter article to the most onerous pastoral task: it is important to give to the church.

The first good reason to give to the Church (and other charities!) is that how we treat money speaks to our true beliefs. That which we spend money on is important to us. And, while it is not a one to one correlation, the things we spend the most on – or most regularly – speak to what we believe. So. Based on that concept, we need to ask if we believe in God or in other things? (Maybe even ask what other things!)

The second reason, which goes with the first, is that when we are generous, we feel blessed. I'm not preaching some "prosperity gospel" schlock here. I do **not** believe that "if we give a lot to the church now, God will bless us now with even more wealth." Nope. Not happening.



But if we give a lot to the causes we care about – including the work of the church, but maybe other good causes as well – we will feel that blessing inside. We will be happier knowing that we have expressed our true beliefs in a tangible way.

Third: worship is coupled with sacrifice. From the dawn of time, when humans have worshipped in any way, there has usually been some sort of sacrifice involved. Even if we believe that Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for our sins, we still might feel empty inside if we do not offer to God some sort of meaningful thank offering – a sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise. Even if we cannot be in worship on a specific day. Giving generously is a strong way to praise God.

Fourth: we are people of shared responsibility. As a community of faith, we share the many different burdens of building, maintaining and growing the ministry given to us. We cannot all do all of the work, but we can each do some. The same applies to our giving. To each as we're able. And note: I do not advise giving MORE than we should. I do not want people on fixed incomes to wildly give, nor those who have to set aside for the next planting season to contribute their seed corn. We must be generous AND wise.



Now. It feels even icky to use myself as an example, but, well, just this once maybe. I try to tithe. Both Lynnette and I try to make sure a tenth of our income goes to charitable causes. Most of what we give goes to the Church, hers, mine and others. And we continue on with many other smaller contributions, with an aggregate that is beyond ten percent. We've had discussions about our giving in lean times, but have not changed our practices. It would feel strange to do anything different.

You will notice that I've not talked about the budget – though point #4 kind of skirted the issue. That's for a reason. Yes, the budget depends on the giving of the congregation – and we need generous participation to make our budget. But, for me, it's really more about each member's spiritual life. Our individual generosity deepens our faith in God. Opening our heart with resources allows us to feel what we believe in stronger way. So if we're not giving well, we're not living well.

There. That wasn't so bad after all.

--AWM



The Simply Giving® Program, endorsed by Thrivent Federal Credit Union, is designated to help you conveniently make contributions to our Congregation. Through Simply Giving Program, your payments are made through a preauthorized withdrawal from your bank account.

Historically, summertime giving is low because of vacations and travel plans. Simply Giving helps you to continue to support our church when you are busy or out of town, and it helps us to continue to meet our monthly expenses. We encourage you to look into this program. It takes just a few minutes to set up a recurring giving plan, weekly or monthly options are available. Please speak with Lori Brawn for more information or an authorization form.

### **Give on Your Terms**

You determine the frequency of your automatic payment – weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly. Your payment is deposited into Ziegels' bank account on the same day it is withdrawn from your account.

### **Easy Giving You Can Count On!**

*Convenience* – Payment will still be made if you are out of town or on vacation.

*Security* – No lost or stolen checks. Environmentally and Wallet Friendly – Save on checks, envelopes and postage.

### **Sign Up and Start Giving**

To participate, please complete our enrollment form that is included with this newsletter and return it to Lori Brawn in the main office.

## Prayer List



Please remember the following people in your prayers. To add someone to our list of concerns, call the church office at 610-285-6157.

### ***Our Members and Friends (Lutheran List):***

**Renee** Miller  
**Pastor** Michel  
**Carol** Merkel  
**Marlene** Evangelista  
**Beth** Harwick  
**Lee** Merkel  
**Joyce** Schrammel  
**Linda** Folck  
**Mildred** Gehringer  
**Shirley** Raubenhold  
**Carolyn** Stettler  
**Irv** Gwinner  
**Clarabelle** Dengler  
**Justin** Schmoyer  
**Deanna** Quay

**Family of**  
Paul Kressley  
Walter Marsteller

**Nancy** Kleinsmith  
**Deb** Ginder  
**Carrol** Schuler  
**Lillian** Bachman  
**Laila** Loch  
**Steve** Hemerly  
  
**Phillip** Black  
**Tanya** Grove  
**Leyla Rae** Hafer  
**Porter** Lilley  
**Megan** Koch  
**Jeffrey** Miller  
**Shirley** Mosser  
**Peggy** Hoffman  
**Sonny** Purugganan  
**Kathy** Toll  
**Janice** Williams  
**James** Ferguson  
**Linda** Pramik

**Dorothy** Geiger  
**Bob** Snyder  
**George** Windish  
**Tom** Kale  
**Sherwood** Hoffman  
**Jeff** Sonon  
**Raymond** Geiger  
**Alan** Starr  
  
**Military Members:**  
**Nick** Millward  
**Greg** Meckes  
**Chris** Owens  
**Ben** Beitler  
**Will** Lopez  
**Garth** Ritter  
**Scott** Esterly  
**Dale** Host

## Lutheran Council Meeting

Lutheran Council meeting was held on Monday, June 10.

- We still need two people for the Lutheran Council.
- Call Committee and Congregation members are invited for the Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, July 11 at 7:00 p.m.
- The Budget Committee has been planned and the Budget will be approved on October 8 by the Council.
- Discussion was held on the replacement of the new addition roof in 2020.

The next Lutheran Council meeting will be held on Monday, July 8.

### Word Search Puzzle Scripture:

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (2 Corinthians 9:6-15 NRSV)

## Word Search Puzzle

*Words are in a straight line in all directions*

Y S O Y L N O A L W A Y S L S C A T T E R S H  
J G T L D R U O Y B R I G H T E O U S N E S S  
E N H G O O D A B R O A D Y T I S O R E N E G  
N I E N G N I H T Y R E V E G N I R A H S C H  
O V R I W I L L P R Y L T N A D N U B A T U A  
U I S R B R E A D E K C O N F E S S I O N D R  
G G G A U G E M I N D R P O L E P S O G I O V  
H S I P T R I R E D N U O H T L G N R H A R E  
A K V S W O L F R E V O I W H B N A E E S P S  
L N E Y D B L O T R S R N L A A I I L S E N T  
S A S M L F O O D I D E T U T B S H U U C O H  
O H G E I P S U N N E V L F H I S T C A N I E  
W T I C P N I U N G E E O R I R A N T C E S Y  
E P V N M R I T P T N R V E S C P I A E I L G  
R R E A R U O S L P I O E E T S R R N B D U N  
H A N D E S S V T U L F S H H E U O T E E P I  
C Y D N V O V T I R M I U C E D S C L A B M W  
I E U U I W E Y S D Y A E L M N M A Y C O O O  
H R R B G S L L A E E Y D S L I E L I H W C S  
W A E A T P I N C R E A S E H Y G L O R I F Y  
I H S I P C H R I S T D E H C I R N E C A R G  
T S N U G R E A T G N I S S E L B G N I V A H  
H G S W J N E T T I R W E V A H G U O R H T R

### Word List

THANKSGIVINGS    RIGHTEOUSNESS    INDESCRIBABLE  
RELUCTANTLY    CORINTHIANS    BOUNTIFULLY    SURPASSING  
GENEROSITY    EVERYTHING    CONFESSION    COMPULSION  
ABUNDANTLY    SPARINGLY    RENDERING    OVERFLOWS    OBEDIENCE  
ABUNDANCE    SUPPLIES    SCATTERS    MULTIPLY    MINISTRY  
INCREASE    ENRICHED    CHEERFUL    BLESSING    WRITTEN  
THROUGH    TESTING    SHARING    PROVIDE    PRODUCE    HARVEST  
GLORIFY    FOREVER    ENDURES    BECAUSE    SUPPLY    SOWING  
SAINTS    OTHERS    HAVING    GOSPEL    ENOUGH    CHRIST  
ALWAYS    ABROAD    WHILE    WHICH    UNDER    SOWER    SHARE  
POINT    NEEDS    LOVES    GREAT    GRACE    GIVES    GIVER  
GIVEN    BREAD    YOUR    WORK    WITH    WILL    THIS    THEY  
THEM    THAT    SOWS    SEED    REAP    PRAY    POOR    ONLY    NRSV  
MUST    MIND    MANY    MADE    LONG    HAVE    GOOD    GIFT    FOOD  
EACH    ALSO    WHO    NOT    MAY    HAS    GOD    BUT    AND    ALL    BY