

THE MESSENGER

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

147 Park Avenue, Amityville, New York 11701

Church Phone: 631-264-0763; e-mail: amityluther@verizon.net

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Reverend David W. Anglin, Pastor

Reverend Herbert M. Kern, Assisting Minister

Mr. David Thomas, DELTO Vicar

Mr. Phil Johnson & Mr. Steve McDonald, Deacons

Mr. Russell Brand, Director of Music

St. Paul's Website: stpaulsamityville.com

Summer Services: Sun. at 9:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 8 p.m.; Contemporary Services: Wed. at 7:30 p.m. and Sat. at 6:30 p.m.

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AUGUST 2019

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR:

Luck, Be a Lady Tonight



A few years ago, I was visiting a lady from our church (during what, alas, ended up being her final illness). A nurse left the hospital room and called back to the church lady: “Good luck!” And the church lady said to me in a half-whisper: “Lutherans don’t say ‘Good luck.’” And that’s generally true. Lutherans have trouble believing in both “luck” and “God’s will.”

Oddly enough, there’s a scene in the 2006 “Luther” film where Blessed Martin Luther meets a young apprentice carpenter and calls out to him: “Luck to you!” In the very next scene, the apprentice is found hanging by a rope, so Luther’s cry of “luck” did not work out well. (The scene is fictional—the filmmakers included it as a way of bringing Luther’s rather charitable sentiments on suicide into the movie). I doubt if Luther would have actually wished anyone “good luck”—but would rather have said: “God bless you.”

A blessing is a gift from a loving, fatherly God; “luck” is a nameless, faceless, impersonal force. Therefore Christians talk about “blessing” rather than “luck.” Luck is

determined, in the human imagination, by all kinds of random things: a rabbit's foot, breaking a mirror, a four-leaf clover, a horseshoe, walking under a ladder. In the TV show "Yellowstone," there's a scene in which a young ranch hand is given a new hat. He unthinkingly lays the hat on his bunk...causing the other cowboys to cry out, "Don't put a hat on the bed! It's bad luck!" When he experiences a mishap or two, the young ranch hand wonders: "What can I do to get rid of the bad luck from the hat?" The head wrangler point blank tells him: "There's no such thing as luck." True! Why would something as random as a hat on a bed bring down calamity? Our lives are not shaped by rabbits' feet and hats on beds. They are shaped by the will, the plan, the blessings of a loving God.

There was a popular book that rode high on *The New York Times* bestseller list for many months: *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* by Rabbi Harold Kushner. Kushner wrote the book out of genuine pain: his son had a disease that accelerated the aging process, so that the lad died at the age of 14 in a 90-year-old body. This caused the rabbi to struggle with God's will and God's goodness. His conclusion: God is not all powerful. God is not almighty. God is limited. There are things beyond His control. He never wishes us anything but good—but He is not powerful enough to turn away bad things from us. However, the rabbi concluded, He is present with us to help us through the bad things He cannot control.

Why do bad things happen, then, if God has nothing to do with it? I was rather shocked when the rabbi answered that question with: "Bad luck." As much as I respect the rabbi's pain and grief, I think it's terrible to replace "God's will" with "bad luck."

If my problems and burdens are simply "bad luck," then they really don't have a lot of meaning. They aren't God's will; they might as well come from a hat on a bed. To me it's really heartbreaking to think that my burdens have nothing to do with God—at least if they come from God, there is a hidden purpose. If I believe that God's will and plan, and not luck, rule the world, then I can say: "This burden, this challenge brings a blessing with it because it comes from God." But if my burdens and problems are simply "bad luck," then there is no blessing there.

A lot of bad things happened to Job in the Bible. Loss of property, wealth, family, health. Job had a lot of bad luck. But it was not "bad luck" at all. *God* permitted Job to be afflicted. It was a terrible trial of Job's faith to endure such hardships. But in the end God spoke to Job out of the whirlwind, and his relationship with God was deepened. The calamities Job experienced ultimately brought blessing.

So even the negative things in life bring a blessing with them. And certainly the positive things, the joyful things, come to us from a loving God. *Everything* comes to us from God. Luck, good or bad, has nothing to do with it. One of the most beloved passages from the Bible tells us this: **“God works everything for good to those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose.”** (Romans 3:28) That passage does not leave any room for luck.

The Cross, as always, sheds a lot of light on this issue. On one level, we might look at the crucified Lord and say: “Wow. There’s a guy whose luck ran out.” But we know that it was not “bad luck” that put Jesus on the cross. It was God’s plan to save us. And realizing that Christ has died to take away our sins, to bring us forgiveness, we might be tempted to say: “Lucky us!” But again, luck has nothing to do with it. We are *blessed* because God loves us and sent His Son for us! The cross also reminds us that God understands our pain and knows what it feels like. That, too, is a blessing—knowing that when I hurt, physically or emotionally, the crucified Christ is with me as someone who has walked a mile in my shoes.

One of the most beloved jokes of all time goes like this: A man is looking for a lost dog. He encounters someone on the street, and says, “Would you be on the lookout for my lost dog? He’s missing an ear, he’s blind in one eye, he only has half a tail, and he’s missing a leg.” “Sure,” the other man says. “What’s your dog’s name?” And the dog owner replies: “Lucky.”

Whatever joys or burdens, whatever happiness or challenges might be in our lives, we who walk in God’s love will always call ourselves... not “Lucky”...but “Blessed.” And we will sing...not “Luck, Be a Lady Tonight”... but “God, You Will Bless Me Tonight!”



God loves you and so do !!

Pastor David W. Anglin

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY!

1st: Kevin Griffin, Wesley Powell, Ryan Thomas, & Jackson Walther

3rd: Katherine Regina

4th: Gail Heithaus

5th: Kathryn Hagan

7th: Heidi Hajek & Deborah Tolkach

8th: Bonnie Anglin and Max Voltaire

9th: Pat Mangels, Frieda Redlefsen, &

Roberta Rowe

11th: Jillian Murphy

12th: Nathan Walther

13th: Melanie Barz, Joseph Bosch, Jr., & Evadne Morrison

14th: Milt Mamara

15th: Wesley Powell

16th: Paul Bernius, Helen Bowen, and Beth Roth

17th: Victoria Klein and Charles Prucha

25th: Laura Anderson and Hallie Hozwarth

26th: Victoria O'Brien

27th: Brandon Walther

29th: Kamren English, Ray Ketcham, & Steven McDonald, Jr.

30th: De Anna Duryea

31st: Sheila Feldmann & Linda Kay



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Happy August Anniversary!



3rd:	Patrick ♥ Nancy Friel	34 years
6th:	Thomas ♥ Karin Devito	42 years
11th:	Richard ♥ Janet James	46 years
12th:	Thomas ♥ Irene Winter	46 years
13th:	John ♥ Christina Vercelletto	30 years
26th:	Dick ♥ Betty North	58 years (wow!)
29th:	Fred ♥ Margaret Harnisch	49 years
30th:	David ♥ Patricia Johnston	44 years

Better Late Than Never...Due to a computer glitch, we missed a handful of birthdays and wedding anniversaries last month. We regret the oversights. An extra-happy belated birthday to: Lance Baker; Joseph Bosch; Nora Desouza; Debra Durante; Chuck Helgans; Junior Kaine; Helen Kiernan; Amy Koop; Eric Liers; Greg Mahnken; Loretta Sprance; and Nick Tsistinas. And belated anniversary blessings to: Mike & Terrylynn Bayon; Michael & Sherry Benson; James & Janet Blohm; Wally & Barbara Holzwarth; Erik & Ginger Lee; Eric & Elizabeth Liers; and Greg & Faith Mahnken.

Vacation Bible School Installation.....On Sunday, August 11, during the 9:30 service, we will be installing all of our VBS volunteers. Please make every effort to attend as we thank them and pray for their success in leading the children into a lifelong relationship with Christ through our program.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER: Any announcements to be inserted in The Messenger for September need to be emailed to amityluther@verizon.net, or dropped off in the church office, no later than Monday, August 19. Thank you!

SERVING IN THE LORD'S HOUSE THIS MONTH

Communion Assistants:

Saturdays–

Aug. 3: Steve McDonald

Aug. 10: Bob Mowad

Aug. 17: Louis Lafayette

Aug. 24: John Mix

Aug. 31: Bob Mowad

Sundays–

Aug. 4: Bill Carmen

Aug. 11: Phil Johnson

Aug. 18: Bill Carmen

Aug. 25: Phil Johnson

Thursdays–

Aug. 1: David Thomas

Aug. 15: David Thomas

Aug. 29: Steve McDonald

Altar Guild

Aug. 4: Carol Gwaltney and Cathy Wynn

Aug. 11: Kathy Marren and Kathy Marshak

Aug. 18: Gileen Allocca and Linda Kolbe

Aug. 25: Marlene Thomas and Ginger Lee

Flower Delivery to Shut-Ins

Aug. 4: Mike Bayon

Aug. 11: Alicia Johnston

Aug. 18: Kathy Marren

Aug. 25: Bob Mowad

Lectors:

Saturdays–

Aug. 3: Steve McDonald

Aug. 10: Bob Mowad

Aug. 17: Louis Lafayette

Aug. 24: John Mix

Aug. 31: Bob Mowad

Sundays–

Aug.4: Pastor Alan Steinke

Aug. 11: Phil Johnson

Aug. 18: Bill Carmen

Aug. 25: Phil Johnson

Thursdays–

Aug. 1: David Thomas

Aug. 8: David Thomas

Aug. 15: David Thomas

Aug. 22: David Thomas

Aug. 29: Steve McDonald

Ushers:

All Wednesdays: Barbara Ridings

All Saturdays: Ginger Lee and Craig Thomas

Sundays–

Aug.4: Alex Serina and Bob Serina

Aug. 11: Danielle Wynn and Ed Wynn

Aug. 18: Kyle Allocca and Craig Smestad

Aug. 25: Bill Albert

Counters:

Aug.4: Kathy Koop, Dorothy McMillin, and Kathy Vrooman

Aug. 11: Marie & Steve McDonald and David & Marlene Thomas

Aug. 18: Herb Jaklitsch, Willard Prostka, and Barbara Ridings

Aug. 25: Gileen Allocca, Linda Kolbe, and Eileen Smestad

✙ St. Paul's Prayer List ✙

Please keep these members and friends of our congregation in your prayers.

MILITARY: Will Astacio; Allison Barz; Glen Bednarz; Leonard Blythe; Cameron Clark; Andrew Cobo; Stephen Cooke; Joe Diliberto; Christopher Harper; Michael Hickey; Frederick Ketcham; Kaitlyn Kessler; Matthew Mazzella; Eamonn McDonough; Cody and Kayla McGee; Richard Moffat; Nelson Montalvo; Nadine Navarro; Marcus Phelps; S/Sgt Porras; Peter Roach; Taylor Roach; Joseph Schonberg; Matt Spencer; Eric Stolz; and Danny Vanbenthuyzen

HEALING: Barbara Aguanno; Anthony Aguanno; Fred Anderson; Phyllis Bello; Brock Benjamin; Jessica Bernius; Eileen Capozzi; Jeannie and Ray Cardillo; Pastor Carney; Steve Cush; David Dentici; Frederika Ellis; Robert Engler; Marie Fassuloh; Bill Hoehn; Barbara Holzwarth; Pastor Michael Hughes; Earline Jefferson; Werner Kohnke; Louis Lafayette; Catherine MacCarthy; Susan Maglione; Ruth Mahnken; Jim Meehan; Helen Meyer; Kenneth Meyerhoff; Madison Faith Milio; Raymond O'Hare, Jr.; Harold Olsen; Robert Osofsky; Wendy Pebler; Amanda Prag; Samantha Prince; Ruth Prostka; Willard Prostka; Peggy Prucha; Ryan Raff; Michael Reilly; Don Ridings; Fran Rizzo; Richard Sauers; Ransford Taylor; Virginia Thomas; June Torns; Kathy Vrooman; Chris Weiss; Roger and the Wilmot family

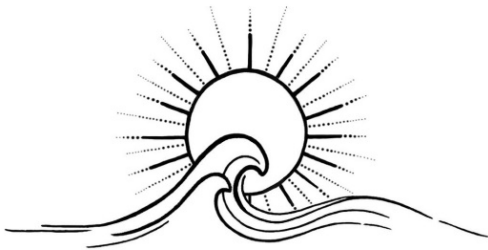




Let Them Eat Cake...please! We customarily have fellowship after Sunday summer worship, but went the entire month of July without any volunteers. So let's make a push to share banter and bagels every Sunday through the rest of the season! If you'd like to host a fellowship of pastries (or bagels), fruit, juice, and coffee on August 11 or September 1 (Labor Day weekend),

please sign the sheet in the narthex. Thank you!

Vacation Bible School is Here! Our 2019 program: "ROAR - Life is Wild and God is Good" will be held August 12th through August 16th from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Vacation Bible School is open to all children ages 4 through 12. It's not too late to sign up in the narthex. If you have any questions, check in with Cindy Gray.



IT'S A SHORE THING

Since the vibe of our Easter sunrise beach service has proven so popular, we thought we would hold a few Saturday services at

Amityville Beach this summer. The

first one, on July 13, was attended by 33 sandy-soled souls. The next one will be held at 5:00 p.m. on **August 10**. Please note that **THIS DOES NOT REPLACE THE REGULAR SATURDAY SERVICE** that day, which will be held at church at 6:30 p.m. as usual.

YOUR PARTICIPATION IN ST. PAUL'S MINISTRY IS APPRECIATED!

Monthly Need: \$14,166.67

JUNE 2019	ATTENDANCE	CHURCH ENVELOPES
June 2	165	\$ 3,661
June 9	121	\$ 4,568
June 16	104	\$ 2,522
June 23	99	\$ 2,572
June 30	96	\$ 4,890
	Total:	\$18,213
	Ahead:	\$4,047

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

June 2: 9 children
June 9: 13 children

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NEWS WORTH KNOWING...

- Cindy Gray is **still collecting** loose change for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Suffolk County in the jar in the narthex.
- Pastor Anglin's **Official Acts** in the past month included the funerals of Erich Hoff, John (Randy) Ronback, and Henry (Hank) Mangels.
- Pastor Anglin **shared a blessing** for the summer season at Amityville Beach on June 29. He also **delivered a prayer** and a blessing at the Wounded Warrior Project Soldier Ride at Babylon Town Hall on July 19.
- Kick up your heels! Sophia Mamara **won first place** in the "dance pair" competition at the National Dance Showcase at Harrah's in Atlantic City. Joyful congratulations!
- We are grateful to Willard Prostka for **lovingly handcrafting** a new wooden cross for the baptismal font. Beautiful work, Willard!

Ladies Aid News



Our annual garage sale will be held on Saturday, September 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Help is needed to set up, sell items, and put away unsold items. You may bring for-sale items to the narthex on Friday, September 13. Please price some or all of your items. No clothing or furniture.

The summer sun and flowers are still shining. Let them light your way to our "Welcome Tea" meeting on Tuesday, September 10 at noon. Please bring a lunch. Coffee, tea, and dessert will be provided. Hope to see you soon!



The Executive Board meeting will be held on Thursday, September 19 at 10:30 a.m.



Teaching Position Available: LuHi in Old Brookville is looking for a seventh and eighth grade physical and Earth science teacher. New York State certification and middle school teaching experience is preferred, but not necessary. A coding and/or robotics background/interest is a plus. Please submit cover letter and resume to middle school principal Laura Callahan at laura.callahan@luhi.org.



Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends

This fall, we'll have two opportunities to enrich our marital relationships. Whether your marriage is practically perfect, or, like many couples, you have struggles, LME Weekends can bolster your relationship—and will be lots of fun as you make new friends. The weekends are October 11-13, 2019, at Hyatt Place in Cranberry, PA (near Pittsburgh) and November 1-3, 2019 at Hampton Inn Berkshires in Lenox, MA. For more information, contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or fjschamber@comcast.net.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church VBS Fundraiser 2019



Help support our VBS by making a donation.

If interested, please place donation in a pew envelope and mark VBS.

Thanks for your contribution.

Cindy