

November 2024

Pastor's Corner

by Pr Dave Heckler



"Who the heck is Melchizedek?" --A high-school friend of mine
"Give peace, O Lord, in all the world, for only in You can we live in safety"
--Evening Suffrages, BCP

Welcome to November— a month that in the Church's liturgical year is already apocalyptic, even when we're not in a presidential election year! This final month of the Church year, bracketed by All Saints Day November 1 and the celebration of the Reign of Christ (Christ the King) on November 27, points us to the consummation of all things in Christ Jesus (sometimes more darkly called "the end times") and what that consummation has to say about the priorities and perspectives that drive us right now. As Christians, descendants of Abraham's faith who live "in the promised land like strangers in a foreign country" [Hebrews 11.9], that consummation of all things *in Christ Jesus* ought to speak volumes to us, and perhaps most potently in these times.

Recently, I've found myself pondering the two quotes with which I begin this letter. Let me begin with the second quote from the responsive prayers ("suffrages") for Evening Prayer in *The Book of Common Prayer*. Certainly, we appreciate this prayer for peace, especially in these war-ravaged days we live in. As if our human (and societal) addiction to the adrenaline rush of violence and its instruments weren't bad enough, "election season" around the world has only ginned up our feelings of fear, chaos, disorder, crisis, and a world out of control, and left many yearning for a "strongman" who can restore "order" to the chaos (always by violent means, of course) and simplify our lives and decisions. Across our planet, nations left and right in their pursuit of "greatness" and "national security" have embraced the siren songs of bullies and would-be dictators who promise "peace through strength". (This isn't a new trend; every empire in recorded history has taken power on the wings of that promise. Caesar Augustus, for instance, was called "Son of God, Savior of the World" for doing this very thing in taking control of the Roman Empire and instituting its dominion across the Mediterranean world. He made sure the claim was written on all Roman coins...) Never mind that scapegoating, fear-mongering, maceration of the rule of law, and violent slaughter were always part of the political equation of such pursuits of power— we human beings throughout the ages have sold ourselves out to this "peace through strength, greatness through conquest" approach of empire because "strongmen" make *us* feel powerful, even while stripping our power from us— and we like that feeling of power, even when it's idolatrous...

In contrast, that little suffrage points us to the real source of our peace: not a "strongman", not our national "greatness", but God— and most specifically, Christ Jesus of Nazareth. "Only in You can we live in safety," we pray; and we ought to pause to grasp the wonder and impact of that statement. "Christ Himself is our peace," the writer of Ephesians proclaims [Ephesians 2.13-18], not by virtue of drenching His robes with His enemies' blood, but by His own blood shed on the cross to reconcile us not simply to God, but to one another, "destroying the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility... to create in Himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross". Precisely when we're tempted in the face of rapid change and uncertainty to embrace the false gods of violence and domination, the Gospel calls us to reject such false gods and their avatars and to embrace the way of Jesus even more boldly in uncertain times.

This, of course, will make us odd, will make us stick out as different in our communities— and when strongmen threaten to destroy "the enemy within", we begin to wonder if that includes us... Which is what brings us to Melchizedek...

"Who the heck is Melchizedek?" a high-school friend of mine once asked me. Well, Melchizedek shows up in Genesis 14 after Abraham has rescued his relatives and their possessions from their captivity in an internecine clan war. The Scripture tells us that Melchizedek ("king of righteousness") is the king of Salem (Jerusalem)— but even so, he appears as a "mystery man", an "outsider" bringing blessings (and bread and wine) to Abraham and his family. He blesses Abraham in the name of God Most High; Abraham gives him a tenth of the spoils in return; and then Melchizedek disappears from the scene so completely that the writer of Hebrews essentially believes he appeared out of nowhere and disappeared likewise ("Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever" [Hebrews 7.3]). He'd probably end up being the Bible's equivalent of Casper the Friendly Ghost except for the psalmist saying of the messianic king, "You're a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek" [Psalm 110.4]...

And this is where the argument gets weird— because while even messianic kings and priests are dedicated to “making a name for themselves” and burnishing their credentials, Melchizedek didn’t come from any official priestly family, and neither did Jesus. Unlike every bully and would-be “strongman” of every age, *noone* knew where Melchizedek came from, or where he got his credentials, or who gave him the right to bless Abraham—and Melchizedek seemed perfectly fine with that. He didn’t need to bring out stormtroopers to back him up, and he didn’t need to “make a name for himself” or establish his “greatness”. *Allhedidwascomeoutandbless someone—andhewasfinewithbeing“themysteryman”*. He made his impact on Abraham and all his descendants without so much as signing an autograph, and then disappeared from the limelight.

We who are followers of Jesus, our great high priest in the order of Melchizedek, ought to pay attention to this. Many Christians, perceiving that the societal clout the Church used to have in our culture is fading, have bought into the lure of the siren songs calling them to assert their “dominion” over the culture by whatever means necessary; and certainly, even those of us who haven’t fallen into that trap are still tempted to find a way to “make a name for ourselves”, especially when we feel small and/or threatened. But Melchizedek points us as a “royal priesthood” [1Peter2] toward another way of being in the world: the way of simply blessing those around us with gifts of grace and mercy whether or not it makes us famous. It’s precisely in *this* way that we’ll “stick out” and make a difference in the world around us. And as this month of November testifies in spades, this way of Christ, this life of humble service that changes the world one life at a time, is the most powerful force in the world over the long haul— powerful not like a bomb, but like a virus, transforming each newly blessed recipient into a bringer of blessing to others. It’s the power that brings about the consummation of the ages in Christ Jesus. And it’ll prove most powerful when our way of embodying God’s grace and mercy in Christ Jesus sings a different “siren song”: “Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Your name be the glory, because of Your love and because of Your faithfulness” [Psalm115.1]...

Yours in Christ Jesus our Lord, **Pr. Dave**



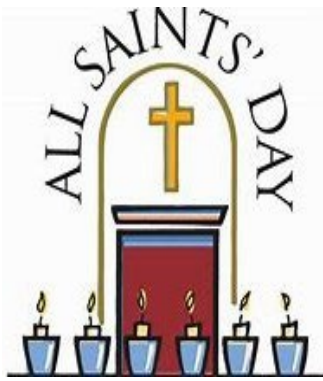
Sunday School is Back!

Sunday School is back at St Paul's! We're meeting from 10:15-11:15 AM on the **second and fourth Sundays of each month**. We have room for all students age 4 through fifth grade, with older kids being helpers/leaders— and we have a great group of students ready to welcome you. Spread the word and join us for Sunday School!

Monday Morning Bible Study



Our **Monday Morning Bible Study is back!** Come join us every Monday from **10:00 AM-12:00 NN** via Zoom or Free Conference Call for a lively and engaging study of the coming week’s Scripture readings. (To join us via Zoom, go to zoom.us, click “Join a Meeting” at the top right of the page, use meeting ID **370 014 7169**, and if it asks for a password, use **119805** and you should be in. If you’re **using your phone**, these dial-in numbers will work to access Zoom: 929.205.6099 or 312.626.6799. After you dial, you’ll be asked for the host’s code, and you’ll type in 370 014 7169, then 119805 and you’re in. To use **Free Conference Call [FCC]**, dial 857.232.0157, enter conference code 144261, and you’re in.) You don’t have to be a biblical “expert” to get a lot out of this study— so come on out and invite your friends to join you!



Worship in November: "For All the Saints!"

November's the time of year when the Church remembers all those who've entered into the fullness of eternal life and begins looking forward to the consummation of history in the return of Christ Jesus. Here at St Paul's, we're celebrating the time in some neat ways:

❖ Throughout the month of November, we'll be using the classic **LBW Setting 2** as our base liturgy, singing "This is the Feast of Victory!" (from Setting 1) with gusto and chanting the Kyrie and Proper Prefaces joyfully, rejoicing in the beauty of the Lord's holiness.

- ❖ On **November 3**, we'll celebrate **the Feast of All Saints** with a festive service of Holy Communion using the grand liturgy of LBW Setting 2. As we remember our brothers and sisters who've died over this past year, we'll light the Paschal Candle in remembrance of Jesus' resurrection shared with them, and light votive candles in their individual remembrance. (Be sure to "call in" the names of your recently deceased loved ones to Aly at the church office [215.536.5789] by Oct. 28 to have them listed in the bulletin and named in the service.)
- ❖ By the way, November 3 marks **the end of Daylight Savings Time**— so before you go to bed November 2, **make sure to make your clocks "fall back" one hour** (if they don't already do so automatically) so you can enjoy the extra hour of sleep before joining us for worship Sunday morning!
- ❖ On **November 10**, we'll be celebrating Veterans Day with the "**Witting Tree**", remembering and rejoicing in those who serve our nation in the armed forces, and also remembering the 20+ veterans who take their own lives every day to end the pain of PTSD, moral injury, and deep woundedness of soul. (We'll also be rejoicing in the **Baptism** of *Allison Diehl*, Norm and Stephanie Diehl's daughter.)
- ❖ Our service on **November 17** will be a lay-led service, as Pr Dave will be attending a special "Former Pastors' Reunion" at Maiden Creek Church in Blandon.
- ❖ On **November 26**, we'll celebrate **the Reign of Christ**, the last Sunday of the Church year, with a service that ponders where one might find Christ seated on His royal throne and reigning in glory.
- ❖ **Quakertown Thanksgiving Service:** Instead of having a more traditional Thanksgiving Eve service this year (which in past years has been poorly attended), our Quakertown Ministerium will be including some meditative/conversational activities at First UCC's annual **Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 28, 12:00-2:00 PM.**
- ❖ Remember that we're sharing in worship and fellowship together **both in person and online.** We "**livestream**" our worship services via Facebook Live and streaming the audio of our services via our Free Conference Call line (857.232.0157, conference code 144261).

It's a month full of special worship events— and certainly full of the presence, peace, and power of our Lord Jesus Christ giving Himself to us and for us in Word and Sacrament. So mark your calendars, invite your friends to join you, and come and share in an exciting month of worship here at St Paul's!

It's "Operation Christmas Child" Time Again!

For many years, we at St Paul's have joined with Samaritan's Purse and churches across our nation in "**Operation Christmas Child**" (or as we've often referred to it, "Shoebox Christmas"), filling shoeboxes with simple gifts for children around the world. This year, our Social Ministry Team is picking up the mantle of "Operation Christmas Child" under the leadership of Cecelia Casey. We handed out shoeboxes on October 13 along with some ideas for appropriate gifts; then on November 17, we'll collect all the returned boxes and get them ready for shipment. For more information on this ministry, go to www.samaritanspurse.org/index.php/OCC/index or see Cecelia Casey.



November's "Monthly Special": Scouts BSA Troop 007 (and Pack 007)

Our "Monthly Specials" and "Noisy Offerings" are special opportunities for giving to help specific ministries in our community and beyond— some of them through the Lutheran church, others through the community organizations. For November, our **Monthly Special** Recipient is our own **Scouts BSA Troop 007 and Cub Pack 007**. The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. Please give as you're able!



Supporting Our Ministries



Thanks for continuing to support our ministries here at St Paul's! Your tithes and offerings are much needed during this time. We're currently running a \$15,000 deficit for the year, even with keeping our spending pretty restrained— so your offerings are especially needed. **You can financially support our ministries in several ways:** [1] If you're already signed up for **Simply Giving**, you're already taken care of; [2] You can **mail your offerings** to the church; and now [3] You can go to our church website (www.stpaulsqtown.org) and make your contributions online, even using a credit or debit card. Whatever way you choose, your contributions help us continue to serve our congregation and community and build upon the good things God's doing through us.

Zion Choral Society Concerts in November

The Zion Choral Society is a local community choir that's been singing together in praise and worship since 1929. Zion Choral was founded as a male chorus under the direction of J. Claude Harwick. The ministry continued under the direction of Albert F. Schuster (1980-1992), Maxine S. Waldman (1993-2002), and Karen L. Shelly (2003-present). They meet each week to practice, pray with each other, and pour love into each other's lives. In November, Zion Choral Society is presenting a series of concerts centered around the theme "The Lord is Holy." Here's their most local schedule of concerts (all concerts begin at 3:00 PM, with prelude music beginning at 2:30 PM):



- ❖ **November 3**
- ❖ **November 10**
- ❖ **November 17**

First Baptist Church, 700 N Broad St, Lansdale PA 19446
First UCC, 151 S 4th St, Quakertown PA 18951
Immanuel Leidy's Church, 273 W Cherry Ln, Souderton PA 18964

Congregational Budget Meeting Dec. 1



On **December 1 after worship**, we'll hold our annual **Congregational Budget Meeting** to review and approve our 2022 ministry budget. (Copies of the budget will be available by Nov. 20 for your review prior to the meeting.) If you'd like to attend from afar, go to **zoom.us**, click "Join a Meeting" at the top right of the page, use meeting ID **370 014 7169**, and if it asks for a password, use **119805** and you should be in. If you're **using your phone**, these dial-in numbers will work to access Zoom: 929.205.6099 or 312.626.6799. After you dial, you'll be asked for the host's code, and you'll type in 370 014 7169, then 119805 and you're in. We'll email copies of the budget in advance, as well as have it viewable on screen during the meeting.

Scouts BSA Troop 007 News



- ❖ We're so thankful for St Paul's welcome and support. But right now, there's one more thing we really need to continue to survive and hopefully, thrive: **We need more Scouts!** The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. If you know a parent or grandparent of kids from kindergarten to high school, encourage them to visit one of our Scout meetings on Thursday nights, or check us out at Scouts007.org. Our Scouts meet **every Thursday evening at 7:00 PM** in the fellowship hall.

In the fall months, our Scouts are planning on doing a trip to Jim Thorpe, train bike ride, a trip to the USS Intrepid Sea and Air Museum, camping, backpacking, ziplining, trailer organization, and a **campout at St Paul's Nov. 9-10**.

- ❖ We now have a fully chartered **Cub Scouts Pack 007** at St Paul's! Many thanks to Rich and Robin Beaumont, Sharin Babb, and John Hunsberger for their hard work and leadership in bringing this troop together and leading it. Currently we have six Cub Scouts, and we're doing recruiting at our local elementary schools to bring in more. The Cub Pack needs parent participation for activities and camping. They meet **every Wednesday at 7:00 PM at St Paul's**.



Synod and Conference News

- ✦ Our Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod now has a **new bishop! Bp Bryan Penman** was commissioned in a grand celebration September 14 at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral. Bp Penman has already been working with our Quakertown Lutheran Cluster in our collaboration discussions, and has said he'll continue to be in close touch with us in our future work.
- ✦ Our next **Quakertown Lutheran Cluster Collaboration** meeting is coming up **December 5 @ 7:00 PM** at Trinity, Quakertown's Annex Building. We've officially established a Collaboration Task Force comprised of three appointed representatives from each of our cluster congregations (plus an alternate or two); our reps are Pr Dave, Brett Shaw, and Gordon Bryan.



Like Us on Facebook (and Otherwise Online)!

- Our church website: www.stpaulsqtown.org
- Our email address: stpaulsqtown@gmail.com
- Our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown
- Our Joyful Noise Facebook page: www.facebook.com/joyfulnoiseatstpauls
- For daily Morning and Evening Prayer: dailyoffice.wordpress.com
- For the Daily Lectionary (Bible readings): www.satucket.com/lectionary

ENVELOPES: Beginning November 3 in the Fellowship Hall there will be a list of our congregation members asking whether or not you want to receive envelopes. Please complete this task in a timely manner so we are not charged for unused envelopes. Thank you!



Daylight Saving Time Ends
Sunday, November 3, 2024 at 2 a.m.
Set your clocks **BACK** one hour
before going to bed on Saturday night.

“The Hand of God Shall Hold You...”

One of the great blessings of life in union with Christ is that the risen Christ binds us in holy and eternal communion with all His people who've *died*, enabling us to grieve in the freedom born of knowing that our loved ones are gone from our sight and for a time, but still joined with us in the body of Christ and alive in Him in far more than memory alone. So far in 2024, we've also said farewell (for now) to *Mitsy Foulke, Sue Becknell, Edna Hottensen, Jolly Ekpe, Jodi Ritto, Dick Wimmer, Irma Guinther, Gunars Berzins, Pam Coviello, Bob Shimalla, Germaine Brown, Pr Rich Knight, and Jim Blough* (Sue Young's brother). Please keep their grieving families and friends in your prayers in these days ahead, that they may come through the dark night of their grief into the resurrection joy born of their Baptismal union with Christ Jesus our risen Lord.



Happy Birthday, Friends!

11/1 Henry DePue
11/1 Melanie Johnson
11/2 Alyssa Barndt
11/3 Jessica Hunsberger
11/3 Sarah Hunsberger
11/4 William Barndt Sr
11/4 John Hunsberger
11/7 Angel Knoedler
11/13 Dean Sauerwald
11/14 Linda Hertzog
11/14 Rhonda Diehl



11/15 David Long
11/15 Peter Flood
11/17 Sarah Bryan
11/17 Joe Brown
11/19 Gordon Bryan
11/20 Caitlyn Long
11/23 Winnie Knapp
11/24 Mervyn Brumbach
11/24 Josh Roehner
11/26 Beverly Johnson
11/29 Stefanie Bauman



And Happy Baptismal Birthday As Well!

We rejoice to celebrate people's biological birthdays all the time, and rightly. But as wonderful as receiving the gift of life in this world is, receiving the gift of new and eternal life in Christ Jesus in our Baptism is even more wonderful (and best of all, it never grows old!). Why shouldn't we celebrate the anniversary of our new birth in Christ even more gladly? So **Happy Baptismal Birthday** this month to *Norman Diehl, Jr. Allyson Hassler, William Heckler, Thomas Roeder, Jr., Lidie Shaw, and Pat Stever.*

Pork & Sauerkraut



St. John's Lutheran Church of Spinnerstown

Saturday , November 2 , 2024

4 : 00 - 7 : 00 PM

Join us for a pork and sauerkraut dinner to benefit

Quakertown area food programs.

\$15 for Adults

\$12 for Children Ages 6-12 Free for

Those 5 and Under

Take-Out Available-Must be Pre-Ordered by 11/1

Call Church at 215-536-0734 or Send an Email to:

stjohnsspinnerstown@gmail.com

St. John's Lutheran Church
1565 Sleepy Hollow Road, Spinnerstown
(Milford Township) For GPS: Quakertown, 18951

www.stjohnsofspinnerstown.org



BC GRANDFAMILIES SUPPORT GROUP

Run by grandparents/professionals for grandparents and other relatives raising the children of loved ones. Build support, discuss topics related to challenges, celebrate successes., broaden knowledge, educate others through lived experiences. Speakers and resources offered. We serve beyond Bucks County.

- **NEW FOR 2024: THREE LOCATIONS!** -
Upper., Central and lower Bucks Support Group Meetings

Upper Bucks

Calvary Church Souderton
820 Route 113, Door #5, Souderton, PA 18964

Central Bucks

Lenape Valley Church
327 W. Butler Ave. (at Ute Rd.)
[for GPS, use Doylestown 18901]

Lower Bucks

Acts of Grace Church
The Woodbourne Office Campus
1609 Woodbourne Rd, Suite 4031B, Levittown, PA 19057
(back of complex, located between the Hindu Temple & Self Storage)

 bcgrandfamilies@gmail.com



MEETING DATES & TOPICS

6:00 - 7:30 PM

September 16

"Adults Overview of Trauma/
Kid-Friendly Version"

Keara McDevitt & Sharon Mangu
Buxmont Counseling
www.buxmontcounseling.com

September 30

"Trauma Art Therapy for Families"

Buxmont Counseling
www.buxmontcounseling.com

October 14

General Meeting

October 28

"Raising Children in Today's
Digital Era"

Justin Donofrio
PA Family Support Alliance
www.pafsa.org

November 11

General Meeting

November 25

"Programs Overview"
Family Service Association
of Bucks County
Julie Lyons
www.fsabc.org

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[facebook.com/BCGrandfamilies!](https://facebook.com/BCGrandfamilies/)

November 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 1 PM Al Anon 7:00 PM AA	2 4-7 PM Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner/St. John's of Spinnerstown
3 Feast of All Saints Day 9:00 am Worship & Livestream worship www.facebook.com/StPaulsqtown 10:15 AM Fellowship Hour 11 AM Joyful Noise Mtg.	4 10:00 AM Zoom Bible Study	5 ELECTION DAY	6 7PM Cub Pack 007	7 3:30 PM Loaves & Fishes @ Trinity, Q-town 7 PM Scouts	8 1 PM Al Anon 7:00 PM AA	9 Scouts campout today and Sunday
10 9:00 am Worship & Livestream worship www.facebook.com/StPaulsqtown 10:15 am Fellowship Hour "Witting Tree" honoring our Vets Baptism of Allison Diehl	11 Veteran's Day 10:00 AM Zoom Bible Study 10 AM Social Ministry Mtg.	12 7 PM Cub Pack Planning Mtg. 7 PM Finance Committee Mtg. by Zoom	13 7PM Cub Pack 007	14 7 PM Scouts	15 1 PM Al Anon 7:00 PM AA	16
17 9:00 am Lay-led service Worship & Livestream worship www.facebook.com/StPaulsqtown 10:15 am Fellowship Hour Operation Christmas Child boxes are due	18 10:00 AM Zoom Bible Study	19	20 NEWS LETTER DEADLINE 7PM Cub Pack 007	21 1PM Bagging at Quakertown Food Pantry 7 PM Scouts	22 1 PM Al Anon 7:00 PM AA	23
24 9:00 am Worship & Livestream worship www.facebook.com/StPaulsqtown 10:15 am Fellowship Hour	25 10:00 AM Zoom Bible Study	26	27 7PM Cub Pack 007	28 Thanksgiving Day Dinner @ First UCC 12-2 PM	29 1 PM Al Anon 7:00 PM AA	30 Reminder Dec. 1st after worship Congregational Budget Mtg.