

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran  
Church  
475 State Street  
Albany, N. Y. 12203-1004

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# St. Paul's News

475 State Street Albany, New York 12203

When I first heard that the miners trapped in the Chilean mine for 17 days had finally been located alive, I thought it was some kind of a minor miracle. At first I thought, how did those poor guys ever survive for 17 days in that kind of a situation? Even when I heard that they had a secure space and water, I marveled at the mental and emotional toughness of those men. But when I heard that they might have to wait several more months to be rescued—I thought—now this will be a major miracle!

After hearing all of the discussions of how, in the midst of a pesky economy, we are faring on the so-called "Misery Index" -- you know the pseudoscience of factoring inflation and unemployment provide an "objective rate" of just how lousy things are at any given time. Well, contrary to prevailing state of "Gee ain't it awful" we are really pretty much in the middle of things -- admittedly, up a few points from last year, but still about 20 points south of the statistical high point during the Carter years.

Hey -- if we are worried about where we are on the Misery Index today, where would you put yourself, if you were in the shoes of those Chilean miners?

I also remember that about a year ago I wrote a piece that played off the nexus of "Misery" and "Mystery". -- The mystery being, what do we say to people who have lost their jobs, their homes, their retirement packages -- are

delaying retirement -- many who never before are struggling to make ends meet. How does that preach?

The really great mystery is, how do you keep the faith and have hope when you are utterly miserable? A key component in this mystery is how we relate to others - making ourselves available to others, linking with their world and experience. - - being present *to* them and *for* them, in communication with them - - being at their disposal when they're in need, so that they aren't alone.

When we are present to others, i.e., available to others, they are enabled, or empowered, to *be* faith and to *be* hope in miserable times.

The mystery of faith and hope - carried in every culture by story and music - carrying the power to unleash faith and transform misery. I would also be remiss if I didn't note that for several years now, we have been talking about being "compassionate neighbors sharing faith and hope."

May we continue to find ways to make ourselves available to others, linking with their world and experience. - - being present *to* them and *for* them, - - being at their disposal when they're in need. They aren't alone.

## *Kick-Off Breakfast*



Our annual kickoff breakfast is scheduled for Sunday, September 12 at 9 AM. Come along for a great breakfast to mark the beginning of our Sunday School and Adult Forum for the year. Both of those will begin on Sunday, September 19. Why not ask a friend or neighbor to join you!

### ***“THE BLESSINGS OF HONEST WORK”***

On Monday, September 6, Americans and Canadians will observe “Labor Day,” a legal holiday set aside to honor labor. Work is often thought of as drudgery--something that you have to do to make a living. So we sometimes call work toil, a chore, an obligation, or even a necessary evil. The New World Dictionary does not agree with that, but holds work up as honorable and positive. Part of its definition goes as follows: ***“work is physical or mental effort exerted to do or make something and be involved in purposeful activity.”***

The Bible takes an even higher view of labor. Labor is actually a gift from God meant to fill our hours and days with meaningful activities that honor God, respect His creation, and provide blessings for others and ourselves. It was God who put Adam in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it (Genesis 2:15). This work was given to Adam before the fall into sin and thus was a blessing from God. It is true that after the fall into sin, work became wearisome toil as the ground was cursed so that sinful human beings would have to earn their daily bread by the sweat of their brows until their dying day (Genesis 3:17b-19). But, in spite of that curse, labor or work remains a blessing from God.

Dr. Martin Luther (who wrote much on the subject of vocation) believed that vocation was a calling, which encompassed the whole of the life of the believer, and was NOT narrowly defined

as a job, trade, or even a religious vocation. Luther believed that the honest work of a janitor, maid or housewife was just as important and pleasing to God as the work of a president, pastor, teacher, doctor, scientist or any other vocation held in high esteem.

Ecclesiastes 2:24-25 (NIV) reads: ***“A man can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, for without Him, who can eat or find enjoyment?”***

St. Paul in writing to the Ephesians and Thessalonians said: ***“He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.”*** (Ephesians 4:28 NIV). ***For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “If a man will not work, he shall not eat.”*** (2 Thessalonians 3:10 NIV).

God’s redeemed people understand that Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s family, the church, **in managing all of life and life’s resources** for God’s purposes. Giving money to support the work of the church and other institutions, giving time to help with honest efforts, and using our talents to bring glory to God and blessings to others are all important parts of Christian stewardship. This truth is summed up beautifully in these words from 2 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV): ***“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”***

This Labor Day and every day give thanks to God for the blessing of work. Giving thanks for honest labor is something that Christian stewards can remember to do in their daily thoughts and prayers. So, enjoy whatever you are doing to observe Labor Day, and then continue your daily work with joy and enthusiasm.





#### NEW BOILER

It was discovered that the boiler that supplies heat to Luther Hall is broken and unrepairable. The Council voted in its last meeting to replace the boiler. Herm Kahler has been overseeing this project. Thanks Herm, for all your time and effort.



**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

#### NEW MEMBER CLASS

A new member class is scheduled to begin on September 21. Please see Pastor Hempel if you are interested.

#### Bottle Collection

We have been doing very well collecting bottles for the men's club. We have cashed in several hundred dollars worth of bottles. What a great way to help the efforts at St. Paul's. Please keep dropping them off on Sunday morning, or call the church office, 463-0571, for pickup. Bags are available on the piano in Luther Hall. Thanks



#### NEW ADDRESS

Carl Mueller has moved and has a new address. He is now at the Loudonville Home for Adults. Please remember him with your cards, payers and visits. His new address is:

LOUDONVILLE HOME FOR ADULTS  
298 ALBANY SHAKER RD.  
ROOM 106  
LOUDONVILLE, NY 12211

## HANDCRAFTED CARD 'MAKE AND TAKE' INVITATION

Please join me in a handcrafted greeting card 'Make and Take' to be held on Sunday, October 10th, 2010 after service. We'll be making Thanksgiving and Christmas cards and you'll be taking home your creations.

Making cards is really fun and easy! With just a few minutes of instruction you'll be creating cards like a pro. I'll provide all the card supplies, light snacks and beverages. A sign-up sheet will be in Luther Hall on the

### POST OFFICE.

When we were sending out the June newsletter, we hit a brick wall at the post office. The rules have changed (without notification) and the way we taped the newsletters is no longer valid. They would not accept them as the old bulk rate mailing, which saves us a lot of postage. They have employed so many rules and regulations, that it is becoming a very complicated process to send out bulk mail. We would like to investigate some other ways of sending our newsletter. If you would like to receive it electronically (via e-mail), please send an e-mail message to Diane 403@Verizon.net. We will then see how many newsletters must be sent through the Postal Service. Thanks for your help.

### NEW CHALICE



The communion chalice has been broken for several years. We've tried to get it repaired and it is not repairable. We will begin a drive to replace the chalice. If you would like to donate in memory of or in honor of someone, please put your check in with the attached form (on next page) and either send it to the church office or put it in the collection plate.

# Thank You! THANK YOU!

## THANK YOU

The planning Council and the congregation recognized teachers during a Sunday in June. Cards were given to our ESL teachers, Sunday school teachers and other teachers in the congregation. The teachers in our congregation were given a token gift in appreciation for their work.

St. Paul's Congregation:

Thank you for celebrating quote teacher appreciation". The card was such a nice surprise. It was nice of you to think of me and all the educators in our congregation! It is great to feel appreciated!!

Gillian Flynn

Thank you for your generous gift for " Teacher appreciation. Your gift was used to purchase extra school supplies needed for the upcoming school year. Both the students and I greatly appreciate your kindness That was very a very thoughtful surprise.

Britt Foley

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Thanks for all your visits cards and phone calls during my recent illness. I am proud to be a member of St. Paul's family.

Hermann Kahler

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Thank you to all who answered the call to help with the August 8 coffee hour. Your co-operation was much appreciated!

## CHALICE DONATION


NAME \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a contribution toward the new Chalice in the amount of

\$\_\_\_\_\_. Please note this in memory of/in honor of

*Choir Notes* Do you enjoy singing? Why not sing with the choir rehearsals begin on September 8 at 7 PM. Talk to a choir member or Arnold Seim for more formation.

*Weddings* BLESSINGS TO TWO COUPLE WHO WERE MARRIED AT ST. PAUL'S RE- CENTLY. KRISTINA TAKACS AND SHANE O'CONNOR WERE MARRIED ON AUGUST 28TH AND YASSAH NUWOLO AND ALLOWYN SIM MARRIED ON SEPTEMBER 4TH.



2. MARY BOSHEA  
4. EDWIN CHARTIER  
11. ARLENE HURLEY  
21. MARGARET PAULSEN



**ELDER: ALAN ALEXANDER**

	FLOWERS	SERVICE STEWARD	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	COFFEE HOUR	ALTAR
9/5	Arlene Hurley	Zwelonke Ushe	Tracy Devaprasad	The Calamaras Family	Lori and Wilma Seim
9/12	Mary Boshea in memory of her mother, Emma Sandwick	Zwelonke Ushe	Tracy Devaprasad	KICK OFF BREAKFAST	
9/19		Tom Ragoni	Diane Kingston	The Seims	Anne Ragoni
9/26	The Hempler Family	Tom Ragoni	Diane Kingston	Alida Earl	

**LISTEN EVERY SUNDAY**

**“CHAPEL TIME”**

**WROW 590 am**

**6:30 am**