



**ST. PAUL'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# Weekly Update

July 13- July 19



**276 Church Street, Montrose, PA 18801**

Office 570-278-2954, Monday-Thursday 8:15am-3:00pm

Click on link to email St. Paul's: [stpaulsmontrose@epix.net](mailto:stpaulsmontrose@epix.net)

Click on link to go to our Website: <http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org>

Click on link to go to our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsmontrose>

To proclaim God's love by word and example and to seek Christ in one another.

## **Pastoral Emergency or Non-Emergency Contact:**

You can call the parish office during office hours. After hours, call Susan Treanor at 845-800-0107.

## **Our Vestry Members**

John Warriner, Sr. Warden	Lynne Graham, Jr. Warden
John Finlon, Treasurer	Wanda Peirce, Clerk
Vera Dunn	Dan Graham
Sandy Seeger	

**Donations** You can mail your tithes & pledges to the church office at 276 Church St., Montrose, PA 18801

## **Church Closures**

Please turn your radio dial to WPEL 96.5 FM. We will announce any closure of our church service on that station.

# View from the Pulpit: Father Bill

## **“Through the Eye of an Needle.”**

Jesus, in his teachings, often spoke about the dangers of wealth and the spiritual challenges it can present. The vivid saying, “It is harder for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven than for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle,” is found in the Gospels (see Matthew 19:24, Mark 10:25, and Luke 18:25). This striking image was used by Jesus not to condemn the wealthy outright, but rather to point to the immense difficulty that material abundance can create for those seeking spiritual fulfillment. Wealth, when it becomes an idol or an end in itself, has the power to distract the heart and constrict the spirit, making it difficult to embrace the humility, compassion, and dependence on God that are central to the Kingdom.

Throughout Scripture, both the Old and New Testaments caution against greed, the relentless pursuit of power, and the hoarding of riches while neglecting the needs of others. The prophet Amos and others warn of judgment upon those who oppress the poor and turn away from justice. In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31), Jesus tells of a wealthy man who, having ignored the suffering of the poor, finds himself in torment after death, while the humble Lazarus is comforted. This story, like the camel and the needle’s eye, serves not as an explicit pronouncement of punishment but as a moral warning: one’s actions toward others, especially the vulnerable, have eternal significance.

Yet, Jesus also encounters wealthy individuals who are praised for their generosity and willingness to relinquish their riches for the sake of others. Zacchaeus, the tax collector, repents and gives away much of his wealth, and salvation comes to his house (Luke 19:1-10).

The core of Jesus’ message is not about the mere possession of wealth, but about the disposition of the heart. Those who use power and wealth to exploit, neglect, or harm others, who allow greed to rule them, are cautioned that such pursuits draw them away from God’s love and justice. On the day of judgment, according to Christian belief, every person will be accountable for how they have lived—especially how they have loved, shared, and acted with mercy.

Therefore, the “punishment” for the rich, the power-hungry, and the greedy is not described in detail, but the teachings of Jesus make clear that spiritual peril lies in placing trust in riches rather than in God. The call is to generosity, humility, and justice, for “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21).

May we all reflect on these words, examining our own hearts and seeking to live with compassion, integrity, and a spirit open to the true riches of God’s Kingdom.

The question naturally arises: if there is no eternal punishment, what need have we of eternal salvation? Such a query invites us to contemplate the very heart of the Christian promise—not as a mere avoidance of suffering, but as a beckoning toward fullness of life. Salvation, it is less about fleeing from an ominous fate, and more about discovering the true meaning for which we were created: communion with God and with one another. To seek salvation, then, is to yearn for wholeness and to accept the open hand of grace.

Thus, the need for salvation transcends fear of punishment. It is rooted in hope—the hope of being made new, of tasting the goodness for which we were fashioned, and of knowing a peace that endures. Eternal salvation is not merely an escape from what we dread; it is the embrace of all that we most deeply desire.

# Sundays Service

The Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

July  
13



## Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Response: Psalm 25:1-9

The Epistle: Colossians 1:1-14

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

## This Week's Ministers:

Preacher: Father Joe Sudano

Altar Guild:

Announcements: John Warriner

Lector: Lynne Graham

Hospitality: The Aikens

## This week's Hymns:

Love divine, all loves excelling

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim

When I survey the wondrous cross

Glorious things of thee are spoken

## This week's Gospel according to: Luke

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

# Happenings and Announcements

- The July 4th breakfast on Friday was an enormous success. Thank you to all the volunteers that made it happen, from setting up to the those in the kitchen, to those checking in all the breakfast aficionados. Also thanks goes to whoever picked up the lawn chairs that blew over after that very windy storm that came through Thursday afternoon. What a beautiful day Friday was! Sunny but not too hot. I hope you all enjoyed your July fourth weekend festivities. I think over 180 people came for the breakfast and there were a lot of very appreciative comments. We raised around \$1,800. Two grandsons took charge of things and showed a healthy competition with other. Our grandson became the bathroom monitor and said to one unsuspecting gentleman “You can’t come through the kitchen to the bathrooms”; and “no, I’m serious” when he thought maybe the man was mistaken.
- We need a volunteer for July 20 coffee hour.
- The children’s theater camp during the week will culminate in a production this Sunday at 3 PM. Come see our community’s youth thespians at work.
- There will be a farewell dinner for Jack and Carol Lasher as they’ll be moving down to Dallas, PA the following week. It is tentatively scheduled for Friday, July 18th at 6 PM at Green Gables in New Milford. Announcements will be made with more definitive details.
- Don’t forget to weigh in on our Mission Statement for St. Paul’s:
  - 1. Welcoming all into Christ’s love at St. Paul’s.
  - 2. Embracing all in Christ through love and service.
  - 3. ....



## **For those who are ill or have requested our prayers:**

Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Nancy Finlon, Carol Marker, Richard Marker, Rich Nagy, John Pease, Rudy Mattes, Jim Mcgee, Carol Lasher, Elaine Petrzala, Janet Watrous, Christine Otto



## **This Months Birthdays:**

Janet Kuhn 7/9, Maggie Sock 7/15,  
Stephanie Calby 7/25



## **This Months Anniversaries:**

## **Our thanksgivings:**

We give thanks for those who celebrate their birthdays this week. O God, our times are in your hand: look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives. Amen.

We give thanks for those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week. Grant o God, in your compassion, that those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week may live out the covenant they have made. May they grow in forgiveness, loyalty and love, and come at last to the eternal joys, which you have promised through Jesus Christ our Lord; and may the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with them this day and forever. Amen.



# Last Week's Service and Events

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of Heav'n to Earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, All thy faithful mercies crown;  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation, Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

The fourth Sunday after Pentecost, July 6th, 10:00 Morning Prayer service was led by Lynne Graham (Rev. Treanor is on vacation in Ireland). John Warriner read announcements and Tom Undercoffler read the lessons. As you know, our live-streamed services can be watched live or any time on YouTube. Just go to our webpage and hit the red button.



## The Lashers are Moving

Longtime St. Paul's parishioners, Jack and Carol Lasher, will be moving to Dallas, PA to the Masonic complex there. They've done it all - altar guild, soup makers, pancake turners, vestry members. They will be missed. A farewell dinner is planned for Friday, July 18th at 6:00 at Green Gables Restaurant. Please let Lynne know if you are planning to come.



## Christ Church Hit by Tornado

Montrose just got hard rain, but Susquehanna and Oakland in the other side of the county were hit by a tornado on July 3rd in the evening. Trees and power lines were down everywhere. Our sister church, Christ Church in Susquehanna, had two big trees come down, one landing right on their stairs to the basement. The church building was untouched.



## July 4th Breakfast

Thanks to the cooks and all the volunteer helpers, our July 4th breakfast was a success. We served over 180 breakfasts. We had four pancake griddles going along with John Finlon's famous sausages and we used 50 dozen eggs. It was a lotta work but a lotta fun.





## New Fireman

Mike Davenport was a busy man on July 4th. He came in at 6:30 and cooked pancakes. Then he put on his vest, went out and directed traffic. Mike recently joined the United Fire Company as a volunteer and obviously is a man of many talents. (He cooks delicious soup, too!)



## Soup Night

Soup night was delayed a little this month because of July 4th and was on Wednesday July 9th. Although it is summer, we served over 90 soups and the Square, our major customer, is always appreciative. Tomato and turkey vegetable are the soups next month on August 6th. Come in and help fill bags or think about making a pot. The signup sheet is on the refrigerator.



## Best Seat in the Parade

Without a doubt, St. Pauls has a perfect view of the parade and we find chairs on the sidewalk as early as two days before the parade. Sean Eckert and his crew were selling ice cream in front of the bell tower door and they had a pretty good audience right in front of them.





## EARLY JULY IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

Summer is here in Susquehanna County. "In July the world of leaf and blade and flowers are exploding, and every sunset is different." Our favorite vista on Ridge Road defines bucolic. Haying continues. The rain doesn't seem to want to stop. The deer are red/brown. Native Black-eyed Susans are appearing on the roadways and in the fields. The wet, hot weather continues to produce an amazing variety of fungi. Day lilies are appearing in our flowerbeds. It's summer, let the fun begin.

