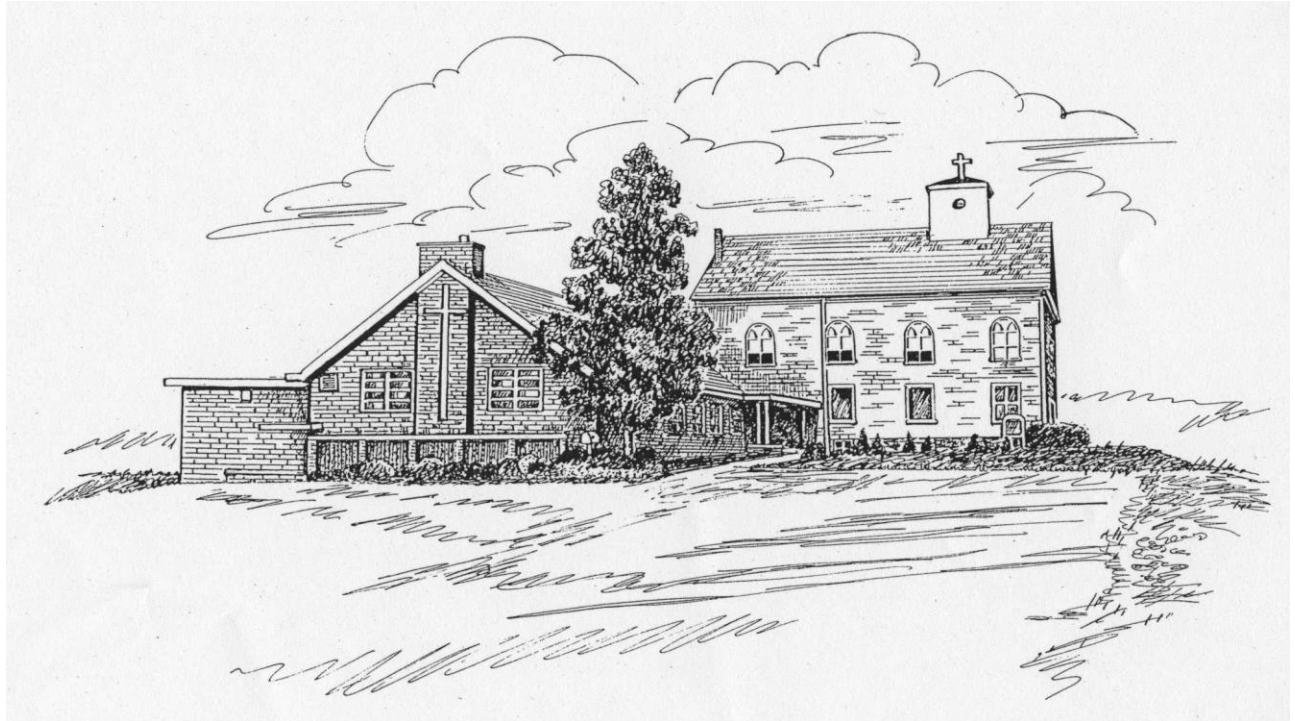


# *WISPS OF STRAW*



## *St. James Lutheran Church Newsletter*

*September 2017*

*Pastor: The Rev. Bernard Kelly*

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*“Serving Christ in Word and Deed”  
more than 265 Years*

# *An Open Letter to the People of St. James and Grace Lutheran Churches By Pastor Bernie Kelly*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

God often answers prayers in the most unforeseen ways and at the most unexpected times. Abram and Sarai prayed for children; Isaac was born to them in their old age. Elijah prayed that he would die rather than face the wrath of Ahab and Jezebel; God sent Elijah back and raised up 7,000 prophets of the Lord. The Jews prayed for one to deliver them from Roman oppression and God sent Jesus to deliver us from our sins. I believe that God may be answering the prayers of the people of St. James and the people of Grace by providing the possibility of sharing ministry.

For at least the last decade each of these congregations has been declining. In 2006 the average worship attendance at St. James was 120, and in 2016 it was 67, that is a 44% decline. In that same period, Grace's attendance fell from 142 to 70, a 50% decline. At this time in its history, each congregation needs experienced professional leadership but neither can afford a full-time pastor and yet a half-time pastor alone (if one could even be found) would not provide enough leadership to help a congregation grow. I know the people of each of these congregations have been praying for God's help.

In April, 2016 I began the call process at St. James. That process concluded on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 when I was called to be the pastor at St. James. At that time, the people of St. James began praying that they would be able to find a way to meet the financial commitment they had made for mission, recognizing that the current model was not sustainable in the long term. I began my call on August 1<sup>st</sup> and Karen and I knew she would need to leave her call as hospice chaplain at AtlantiCare (in south Jersey) and we would need to move from our home in Ocean City. We began praying that God would help us find a home and Karen a new call and that we could sustain our financial commitments in the interim. Amazingly, miraculously, the possibility of renting our home in Ocean City came up through a casual conversation with a neighbor. God is so good! At that time, I was completely unaware of the existence of Grace until Pr. Weber and Earle Conrad of Grace stopped into my office in early August, 2016. Pr. Weber informed me at that time that he was resigning. Many people, including the Bishop of New Jersey, were surprised by that resignation. The people of Grace began praying for a new pastor; one that they could afford.

And so here was the situation at that time. St. James was excited about calling its new pastor, but was also very concerned about sustainability. Karen and I were relocated and in need of a home and a call for Karen. Grace was saddened by the departure of Pr. Weber, and knew that calling a new pastor was going to be a financial challenge. And we were all praying. We all knew that a full-time pastor was too much for either congregation and a half-time pastor alone was too little if these congregations wanted to grow.

And then it seemed God inspired two different, unrelated persons to ask us to consider working together. This concept was neither initiated nor promoted by either Karen or me. We were willing to consider this idea of two congregations sharing a full-time pastor and a half-time deacon. We have been praying and discerning since that time. Because it seemed to others that the Holy Spirit was actively moving, the two congregations formed a task force and began exploring that question. In the meantime, Karen was hired as the chaplain for Karen Ann Quinlan hospice, originally on a per-diem basis and then promoted to Lead Chaplain. And now Karen Ann Quinlan hospice has offered her a full-time position. Karen recognizes that God may be nudging her in a new direction, toward a new call in congregational ministry. She had to decide whether this was something she would even consider and after much prayer and discernment she believes it is. Since I have been serving as the vice-pastor for Grace, Karen and I have come to know and love the people of both St. James and Grace and are excited about the possibility of helping each congregation grow and expand their individual and joint witness to this area.

I am convinced that God is offering all of us a unique and miraculous possibility: by sharing a full-time pastor and a part-time deacon, each congregation would be afforded the rare opportunity to use money that would otherwise be required for a full time pastoral salary for building and program enhancements. Each congregation would actually be able to have funds available for advertising and program expenses while benefiting from the experience of a well-seasoned pastor and deacon. I also believe that God brought about the possibility of a particular combination of pastor and deacon whose knowledge, skills and experiences are so complementary and who have a long history of working together. I bring a great deal of experience in the ministries of worship, evangelism, stewardship and mission development. And Karen brings great experience and training in Christian education, social ministry and spiritual formation. The classes and experiences Karen had in her seminary education and hospice experience perfectly complement my education and experiences as pastor. It is clear to me that this is one of those times when God is answering many prayers in unforeseen ways and with perfect timing because I do not believe that all the various pieces of this puzzle fell into place, just as they did and at just the right time by random occurrence.

I hope the members of each congregation will continue to pray to discern God's will for us. I am asking the members of each congregation to be well informed with *actual facts*, not the opinions and false information that seems to be getting bandied about. As part of that information process, I would commend each member to consider reading the article on Page 4 that Cookie Fassl (of Grace) has prepared about deacons in the ELCA. I would encourage each member to recall that while this is a change, God has brought each congregation through many, many changes. St. James has built three church buildings, had the roadway around it changed, and had many pastors and leaders come and go. Grace moved up from South Main Street, saw the building of the new Warren hospital and also experienced pastoral and leadership changes. God has remained constant and has sustained us through all of it.

On September 19, the two church councils will meet with Bishop Bartholomew and try to finalize the Shared Ministry Agreement. When that happens, and if both councils approve the Agreement, each congregation will have a congregational meeting to formally approve it. Please continue to pray for both congregations, each other, and for Karen and me as we bring this process to its conclusion, whatever that might be. Karen and I are excited about this possibility and both of us are convinced this sharing of ministries is in the best interest of both congregations.

Faithfully yours,  
Rev. Bernard R. Kelly

## *Houston, We Have a Gathering!*

Every three years high-school aged youth of the ELCA gather in a large city of the United States for fellowship, spiritual development, learning and service opportunities, and worship. Only certain cities can qualify: they must have a domed arena that can seat at least 30,000, there must be sufficient hotels to accommodate 30,000 close to the venue and the city must be willing to work with the ELCA to ensure the safety of the participants. These are some of the cities that have hosted previously: St. Louis, MO; Atlanta, GA; San Antonio, TX, New Orleans, LA; and Detroit, MI. Youth who attend these events (and the adults who accompany them) are changed in a positive way for the rest of their lives.

Pr. & Deacon Kelly have participated in three ELCA Youth Gatherings and share some thoughts about those experiences:

Atlanta, GA (2003): The theme was "Ubuntu : do life". *Ubuntu* is a Bantu word from South Africa which describes a philosophy based on the interconnectedness of all human life. This was our first gathering and we were hooked. We took the youth to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Shrine, and they (and we) were amazed at what they learned.

San Antonio, TX (2006): The theme was "Cruzando: Crossings" and we gained a new perspective on the plight of refugees from Central America. We heard the story of a young woman who fled the drug wars and human trafficking of Central America. When our youth heard what her childhood and teenage years had been they felt very blessed. Our service day was spent working in one of the few schools in the STATE of Texas exclusively for children with physical *and* developmental challenges. Our youth were talking about that experience for at least a year.

Detroit, MI (2015): The theme was Rise Up! We took two high school students to the Gathering. For one, this was her first time travelling without her parents. Each of the girls were amazed at the mass gatherings: 30,000+ Lutherans gathering each night. They loved Synod night at one of Detroit's great rib joints, and they were stunned that there were so many Lutherans in New Jersey. But each of them were most moved by the social conscience activities. The first was when they had to experience what many women in many small villages in Africa experience DAILY: walking five miles each way to get the 5 gallons of water their families need for the day. The second was the display on human trafficking which showed a typical young girl's bedroom on one side of a wall, and on the other side what too many girls experience as a result of human trafficking. "That makes me so mad!" said our one young lady. Well said. But perhaps the clearing of debris from an abandoned lot and house in a Detroit neighborhood was what made the biggest impact on them.

We already laying plans for the youth of St. James (and Grace) to attend the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX. This is a HUGE undertaking. It will take the engagement, commitment, and participation of the entire congregation. We have already had our kick-off (see Page 9), and at this point four youth from St. James (and three from Grace) have indicated their desire to go. And now, comes the challenge. For this to be a success we will need to help the youth raise funds, plan the actual trip and prepare for this. It really will take the entire congregation. At this point, we encourage the congregation to be informed, pray for those planning on attending the Gathering and assist with the special events that will be coming along. Our first fundraising event will be on **Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**. **We will be having a Yard Sale and community Fun Day**. Please consider donating items to the Yard Sale (they can be dropped off at the church or we can arrange to have them picked up). Please come out on the 14<sup>th</sup> and support the youth!

The Fun day will include: a dunk tank with Pr. Kelly on the "hot seat", games, and activities for families and FOOD! Make sure to tell your friends and neighbors.

## What is a (Lutheran) Deacon?

*This article appears courtesy of Grace Lutheran Church's Tidings newsletter.*

*from Cookie's Desk*

After hearing so many at Grace wonder what a Deacon is and whether we need one, I decided it might be a good idea to enlighten all of us. To accomplish this, I asked Deacon Karen for her help, and am grateful she said "yes!" I included the parts that I thought are important for us to know. Here is her contribution, beginning with her words, and followed by ELCA information downloaded from various articles:

**From: Deacon Karen Kelly** "This first part is from the actual service for consecration of deacons and contains the vows we take and our charges given us by the bishop. It's very similar to the service for ordination. This takes place after we have graduated from seminary and been approved by the candidacy committee for consecration. That candidacy process is identical to that for Ministers of Word and Sacrament (pastors). It's long and grueling and includes psychological testing and close scrutiny. In addition, I had 2 years of spiritual direction, attended the 2- week Diaconal Ministry Event at Gettysburg Seminary with candidates from around the country, and completed a diaconal ministry project which concluded with a 35- page paper which had to be presented to and approved by 2 faculty members.

I guess in summary I would say Ministers of Word and Service serving in congregational ministry focus on equipping members of the congregation to live out their faith in ministry to others, within and especially beyond the church. This is accomplished through Christian Education for all ages, social ministry and spiritual formation. Because we are rostered in the ELCA, the congregation can be assured that we have been thoroughly educated and prepared in accordance with a set standard. We are accountable to the congregation, the synod, the ELCA and God. Our ministry actually complements that of the Ministers of Word and Sacrament which focuses more on the worship and mission of the congregation."

### **From: The Rite of Consecration to Ministry of Word and Service**

All baptized Christians are called to share in Christ's ministry of love and service in the world, to the glory of God and for the sake of the human family and the whole creation. You have been called as *a minister* of word and service to give leadership in the church's mission to proclaim the gospel through word and deed. You are now to be entrusted with this ministry by the laying on of hands and by prayer.

**Vows:** *The presiding minister questions the candidate/s.*

Before almighty God, to whom you must give account, and in the presence of this assembly, I ask: Will you accept this ministry, believing that you are called by God to serve faithfully as a minister of word and service? *Each candidate responds:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

The church in which you are to be consecrated confesses that the holy scriptures are the word of God and are the norm of its faith and life. We accept, teach, and confess the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds. We also acknowledge the Lutheran confessions as true witnesses and faithful expositions of the holy scriptures. Will you therefore serve in accordance with the holy scriptures and these creeds and confessions? *Each candidate responds:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace?

*Each candidate responds:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you witness to Jesus Christ in word and deed, pray for God's people, and by your own example encourage them in faithful service and holy living? *Each candidate responds:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

**Charge:** *The presiding minister addresses the candidate/s.*

*Name/s, serve the needy, care for the sick, comfort the distressed, and, through words and actions, witness faithfully to God's love for all people. Cross every barrier that stands between the church and its ministry in the world. Seek out those places where the gospel of Jesus Christ meets the world's need. Empower, equip, and support all the baptized in the ministry of Jesus Christ. Lead us all in proclaiming the gospel in word and song, in witness and service. And be of good courage, for God has called you, and your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*

**From: The ELCA Churchwide Assembly 2016**

**Why "deacon?"**

The name *deacon* is proposed for those who are called to this ministry of Word and Service because it is biblically rooted, historically informed, ecumenically related and mission driven. The name or title deacon is gender neutral. The title and office of deacon is used by our full communion partners in the Episcopal and United Methodist churches as well as in many global Lutheran World Federation churches. Deacons will be called to advocate a prophetic *diakonia* that commits itself to bold and innovative service on the frontiers of the church's outreach, giving particular attention to the suffering places in God's world. Deacons will be called to provide leadership that inspires, calls out, equips, encourages and advocates for the church's call to witness and service in the world. A ministry of *diakonia* invites participation, builds bridges and accompanies others in God's mission in many different ways.

**What formal preparation will be required of candidates for Word and Service ministry?**

Under the guidance of ELCA synodical candidacy committees, candidates will satisfactorily complete the requirements for a Master's Degree in theology or a related area, including practical preparation, as defined by the appropriate churchwide unit, such as internship and supervised clinical work, or in lieu of a Master's Degree, had equivalency assessed through a competency assessment at the request of the candidacy committee.

Deacons who have been approved through the ELCA candidacy process and who serve under a Letter of Call as outlined in the ELCA Constitution will appear on the official roster of Word and Service ministry of this church. These individuals, as rostered public ministers of the ELCA, regardless of where they may serve, are accountable in their conduct and ministries to the ELCA and its governing documents. ELCA rostered deacons are recognized and may serve in all synods.

**By what rite will ministers of Word and Service be received onto the roster?**

At the present time, candidates who have been approved and received a call as an associate in ministry are commissioned. Candidates who have been approved and received calls as either a deaconess or diaconal minister are consecrated. A candidate who has been approved and received a call as a pastor is ordained. The ELCA Church Council appointed a working group to discern what the entrance rite for the new Word and Service roster might be. The Church Council later affirmed a recommendation from the Conference of Bishops to delay a proposal on the appropriate entrance rite and related issues until the November 2018 meeting, asking the working group to engage conversations across the church about this rite. Consecration will be used as the entrance rite until then.

### **What is the relationship between deacons and the ministry of the baptized?**

Christians have always emphasized the need to live faithfully and actively with care for the neighbor, our own individual identity and purpose already having been secured for us by the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ. This is the work of the priesthood of all believers. As Scripture and history show and as cited in the ELCA Constitution, "This church affirms the universal priesthood of all its baptized members. In its function and its structure this church commits itself to the equipping and supporting of all its members for their ministries in the world and in this church. It is within this context of ministry that this church calls some of its baptized members for specific ministries in this church."

Thus, deacons represent, serve, lead and equip the whole people of God in service to God's world. Deacons come from and stand with, by and for the whole ministry of the baptized. In this way, too, deacons uniquely incarnate the church's call to *diakonia* and inspire renewed action.

### **What is the relationship between deacons and pastors?**

Deacons serve and lead in the ministry of Word and Service. Pastors serve and lead in the ministry of Word and Sacrament. These two emphases are inextricably linked inviting and encouraging these leaders into complementary and collaborative ministry in a great variety of settings. Both lead and serve under the name of Jesus Christ, the Word of God. The emphasis of deacons is to lead and equip the baptized for service within and beyond the congregation.

*From: A deacon who has served the church for more than 20 years, writes:*

"The congregations I've served have benefited from me being rostered. Because I'm rostered, they have a system guiding how I and my congregation work together and what we should expect from each other. My congregations know that ELCA rostered leaders go through an extensive candidacy process and have ongoing expectations for continuing education and professional growth. My congregations have known that my education and theological training has been examined and certified, and I have promised to lead in accordance with the same doctrines and beliefs as the pastors who are ELCA Ministers of Word and Sacrament." People on the "word and service" roster will join ordained pastors ("word and sacrament" roster) as public ministers of the ELCA, called to their positions and accountable to the church for their work.

## *Catechism Classes Resume*

Catechism is the teaching of the Lutheran expression of the Christian faith. At St. James, we teach the catechism to students who are in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Catechism classes meet at 6:00 - 7:30 pm Sunday evenings in the Grace Lutheran Church parsonage, 481 Barrymore Street, Phillipsburg. Each class includes a meal and discussion. The first meeting of the catechism class will take place on **Sunday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm**. The student and at least one parent should attend. Please call the church office to RSVP.

## *Save the Date*

(and tell your pets to save the date, too!)

On **Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>**, we will have two special events! We will have a Blessing of the Animals and we will worship outside! The outside worship makes sense given that the animals will be invited to worship with us. (All animals will either need to be leashed or contained in pet transports.) We will set up chairs on the lawn on the western side of the church. We will be under a canopy provided by Drake's Rentals of Phillipsburg. After the regular communion service, there will be two stations for pet blessing. During the worship service, those with pets will be asked to sit in the back section.

## Shared Ministry Update

Over the last eight months, three members of St. James (Polly Sue Newbold, Bob Babcock and Jason Raub) have participated in a Shared Ministry Task Force with three members from Grace (Earle Conrad, Joe Fassl, and Dave Gulick). We all owe these folks a big debt of gratitude. This Task Force was given the assignment of exploring the possibility of St. James and Grace sharing professional staff as a way of: 1) reducing costs and 2) providing a more effective way to minister to the community going forward. At present, neither congregation can, under its current structure, sustain itself far into the future. The Task Force determined that sharing rostered leaders was a viable and encouraging possibility, and also decided that it was critical to the success of this endeavor to have clear and documented agreement between the two congregations and the two rostered leaders. A great deal of time and effort was invested in creating such an agreement. A draft which is all but complete was mailed to each congregation member previously and is available on request for review. On September 19<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Tracie Bartholomew will be coming out to lead a joint meeting of both Councils in finalizing this agreement for presentation at congregational meetings. In order to get as much information about the Agreement out to the congregation, and to get as much input from the congregation prior to the Bishop's visit, we will be holding five "cottage meetings" - small, informal gatherings where people should feel free to raise any question, voice any concern or make any suggestion without fear. We will try to limit the attendance at each cottage meeting to about 14. Sign-ups will be available in the narthex of the church the and lobby outside Frey Hall.

The cottage meetings will be held on the following dates and in the designated locations:

Date	Time	Location
Tues. 9/5	10:00 am	Home of Dave & Charlotte Morris, Charles Rd. Phillipsburg
Thurs. 9/7	7:00 pm	Home of Dominick & Suzanne Esposito, Leah Ln. Stewartsville
Sat. 9/9	7:00 pm	Following worship, Ed Frey Hall
Sun. 9/10	10:00 am	Following worship, Ed Frey Hall, southside
Sun. 9/10	7:00 pm	Home of Dave & Holly Chemidlin, Walter Way, Stewartsville

Each meeting will be for 90 minutes, and all questions and answers will be logged in a register and the register made available upon request. Also, there is a box outside the pastor's office where questions / concerns related to the Shared Ministry Agreement may be placed. Anonymous questions / concerns will be accepted here. All the questions/concerns received in the box will be addressed and those will also be logged in the register. This is such a vital decision in the life of the congregation. Please be sure to stay informed.



## Worship Leaders Schedule September & October

Day/Date	Special	Communion Set-up/Clean up	Greeters	Lector	Liturgist	Ushers
<b>Sept.</b> Sat. 2	Labor Day Weekend	Sue Miller		Holly Chemidlin	Sue Miller	
Sun. 3	Labor Day Weekend	Marlie Raspe	Dave & Charlotte Morris	Ralph Avard	Polly Sue Newbold	Harvey Walters Ron Knoble
Sat. 9		Marion Martin		Mark Aloise	Cindy Aloise	
Sun. 10		Marlie Raspe	Lois Steible Carol Steible	Karen Kelly	Karen Kelly	Harvey Walters Ron Knoble
Sat. 16		Kelly Perna		Rick Brunsell	Kelly Perna	
Sun. 17		Marlie Raspe	Janet Bray	Jamie McClain	Polly Sue Newbold	Harvey Walters Ron Knoble
Sat. 23		Sue Miller		Sue Miller	Holly Chemidlin	
Sun. 24		Marlie Raspe	George & Chris Scherer	Polly Sue Newbold	Steve Stocker	Harvey Walters Ron Knoble
Sat. 30		Marion Martin		Holly Chemidlin	Sue Miller	
<b>Oct.</b> Sun. 1		Marlie Raspe	Carol Steible Lois Steible	Karoline Avard	Jamie McLain	Harvey Walters Ron Knoble
Sat. 7		Kelly Perna		Mark Aloise	Cindy Aloise	
Sun. 8		Marlie Raspe	Dave & Charlotte Morris	Bob Babcock	Steve Stocker	Harvey Walters Ron Knoble
Sat. 14	Yard Sale	Sue Miller		Rick Brunsell	Kelly Perna	
Sun. 15		Marlie Raspe	Janet Bray	Karen Kelly	Polly Sue Newbold	Harvey Walters Ron Knoble
Sat. 21		Marian Martin		Cindy Aloise	Holly Chemidlin	
Sun. 22		Marlie Raspe	George & Chris Scherer	Jamie McLain	Ralph Avard	Harvey Walters Ron Knoble
Sat. 28	Reformation					
Sun. 29	Reformation		Carol Steible Lois Steible	Steve Stocker	Karen Kelly	Harvey Walters Ron Knoble

## *ELCA Youth Gathering Kickoff and Pool Party*

Youth in 8<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grades had a kickoff and pool party hosted by Suzanne and Dominick Esposito on August 13<sup>th</sup> to begin planning for the ELCA triennial youth gathering in Houston, TX next year.



### *About ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton*

Elected as the ELCA's fourth presiding bishop at the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton earned a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School and a Bachelor of Music Education from the College of Wooster.

Ordained in 1981, Eaton served three different congregations in Ohio as assistant pastor, interim pastor and pastor before being elected bishop of the ELCA Northeastern Ohio Synod in 2006 and re-elected in May 2013.

At gatherings, she often shares her four emphases for the ELCA: We are church; We are Lutheran; We are church together; We are church for the sake of the world. These four emphases are fundamental to identifying who the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is.

Eaton also represents the ELCA in a wide range of ecumenical and interfaith settings. She serves on the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA Governing Board and Development Committee, Religions for Peace USA Council of Presidents and Lutheran World Federation Council. Eaton's presence witnesses the commitments of the ELCA to its long-term ecumenical partners, both in conciliar and bi-lateral settings.

Eaton's husband is the Rev. T. Conrad Selnick, an Episcopal priest. They are parents of two adult children, Rebeckah and Susannah.



# 17<sup>th</sup> Civil War Veteran recently “found” at Straw Cemetery

Aaron Kichline 1837-1921

How do we “find” a forgotten Civil War Veteran? Each “find” has its own story. The problem began when almost 100 years ago Aaron was buried at Straw without a gravestone or veterans marker to acknowledge his interment there. Over the years, with no marker he was forgotten. Fortunately the lost is now found and with the following background, here is his story.

The only available lists of burials at Straw Cemetery are from several historians, who in the past, documented legible gravestones they found while walking the cemetery grounds. So only those with information visible above ground are on any current list. The cemetery has extensive records but there has never been an effort to organize the several thousand documents into a complete alphabetical list.

In the spring of 2017 four volunteers, Charlotte and Dave Morris along with Carol and David Hoff, took on the task of digitizing all the cemetery burial records. Our goal was to preserve existing documentation and develop one complete alphabetical list of all known burials, with and without gravestones.

We were fairly sure we would find in the old records some “unknown” burials that had no gravestones. While in the process of scanning, one plot record caught our attention. There were eight burials listed where a single gravestone gave evidence of only one.



That gravestone, the only thing visible above ground, is for Margaret Osmun 1900-1943. The rest of the entire plot was just green grass. The records showed one of the unknown burials to be Margaret's grandfather Aaron Kichline, burial on March 3, 1922.

This is the kind of information for which we are looking. Armed with a name and burial date, a trip to the Easton Library's newspaper records usually reveals an informative obituary.

The Kichline name was very familiar to Carol so without delay she was at the library and more than a little excited when she found the following:

## OBITUARY

### Aaron Kichline

Aaron Kichline, a veteran of the Civil War, and for many years a resident of Phillipsburg where he had many friends and acquaintances, died this morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Alice Paff, 148 Apricot street, of a complication of ailments. He was 84 years of age. Mr. Kichline is survived by another daughter, Mrs. Annie Osborn, of Phillipsburg. For a number of years Mr. Kichline was a member of J. G. Tolmie Post, G. A. R., that recently disbanded.

Through the National Parks web site the following can also be found about Aaron Kichline:

Civil War Veteran of Co. C, 31<sup>st</sup> Regiment of New Jersey as a private. The 31<sup>st</sup> were organized in Flemington N.J. and mustered in September 16<sup>th</sup>, 1862 and mustered out June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1863. This company fought in the Battle of Chancellorsville, Va. from May 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> and mustered out of their 9 month enlistment before the battle of Gettysburg.

Aaron Kichline applied for a pension April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1887 and is listed under Aaron Keichline in the National Park Services website of soldier details in the Civil War.

See more family information on Carol's updates to Aaron Kichline's Memorial on: [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com)

## Easton Express Funeral 12/30/1921, Pg. 8

### FUNERAL OF AARON KICHLINE

The funeral of Aaron Kichline, who died several days ago at the home of his daughter Mrs. Alice Paff, 148 Apricot street, was held at 2.30 this afternoon from the P. F. Hagerty undertaking parlors, South Main street, Phillipsburg. Services were conducted by Rev. D. S. Hafer, pastor of St. James Lutheran (Straw) Church and burial was made in Straw Church cemetery. Friends were pallbearers.

We are in the process of applying for a Civil War gravestone from the Veterans Administration, with the assistance of the Rupell Funeral Home. Certainly a celebration is in order, and we would need volunteers to help provide a successful event. If you have suggestions or are interested in helping acknowledge Aaron Kichline, who has gone unacknowledged for almost 100 years, please contact Charlotte or Dave at [dhmcs22@yahoo.com](mailto:dhmcs22@yahoo.com) or 908-859-0723.

*Submitted by Dave Morris*