

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Presents...**

July
2021

The Voice

Newsletter
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Message from our Pastor

Dear Beloveds,

Welcome to the month of August! I was talking with my wife the other day and we were talking about feeling as if the summer was over. The day was overcast and we were sitting outside thinking about the busy last few weeks. We spent so much time getting ready to welcome people to our home for the Open House following my Ordination and Installation. It was a glorious day and I am still feeling it's uplifting spirit of community and joy. As I think about that uplifting spirit, I am pulled from my thoughts of a summer almost over, and recognizing the bounty of time and weather still left for us to participate in and enjoy.

So.....here it is August and we still have plenty of time to enjoy the weather, friends, family, community, and even some quiet time with ourselves if that is something that rejuvenates you. Take a look at the calendar and be intentional about recognizing that the summer is still in swing and we still have time to enjoy being in the garden, sitting outside, taking a walk, and perhaps even taking a few days off to simply "be" and breathe. Taking care of ourselves both in body and spirit is important. It's like rest; without it we struggle to think clearly and even to exercise our compassion and recognize how our faith unfolds in the daily activities of living.

Beloveds, there is a garden just up the hill at Fisher Park and they are growing vegetables for our Produce Saturday offerings. It is a tremendous place to sit and enjoy the out of doors. There is a lovely picnic table and benches. If you noticed in our bulletin lately, there is a wonderful opportunity to walk with artists at

Tacony Creek Park in a Sunrise & Sunset Walk sponsored by The Olney Culture Lab on Aug. 5 and 7. A Day of Civic Engagement is being planned by the North Fifth Street Revitalization Project. It will be held outside the Library but I don't yet have a date.

I'd also love to get to visit with all of you. The weather is still good, and we can sit outside safely without masks. It would be wonderful to share some lemonade and get to know one another better. I am happy to sit inside as well. I've just begun visiting in person, but now that we are able to be more flexible with in-person gatherings, it would be wonderful to gather in a small group – Thursday afternoons. Of course, you can always call the office and set up a time that works too!

The Fall IS coming and there will be opportunities for gathering to study the Word, gather with young ones, and even, perhaps, to share distanced simple meals. The protocols may change yet again by the time the Fall is upon us; but for this time and in this place – let's rejoice in the gift of people, weather, and creation – all given to us to care for and enjoy by our Lord.

Grace and Peace,

~Pastor

Virtual Worship

with St. Paul's

Worshipping Together at Home continues to be a success!



During this unique time in our country's history, St. Paul's has expanded the worship experience. St. Paul's online worship experience helps us connect with our congregation and community! Join us every Sunday at 10:30am for worship on Facebook Live! Each service is uploaded onto our YouTube Channel the following Monday morning. We've added "At Home" resources for those who do not have access to the internet. If you hear of someone who needs these resources, please call the office.

A special thank you to Matthew Brenner for his musicianship that so beautifully enhances our worship. All of our music videos are on our Facebook page and YouTube Channel for your listening pleasure and devotional practice.

A Note About Our Sunday Morning Worship



Kathleen Kerin, Pastor

Come and See! Come and See!

Well. That is more than one word, I know. But it's message is one of invitation – and YOU are invited to join us on Sunday Mornings in the Sanctuary!

The Sanctuary is bright with the joy of Christ and Care for one another. Worship begins at 10:30; plan to arrive a few minutes before we begin. We are singing (softly for now) and reading all of the Lessons. Children are invited to come up to the Altar for a Children's Message and Readers are invited back to the Lectern!

If you feel more comfortable and safe remaining home for worship, please know we will continue to offer livestream worship and uploading it to YouTube on Monday mornings.



St. Paul's Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be Monday, August 9th at 7:30pm. The meeting will take place in the Parish Hall. Please have your reports in to Courtney no later than Wednesday evening, August 4th. Courtney will send them out by Thursday afternoon to give members time to read them. Later reports will be emailed on Monday morning. The Executive team will meet the Thursday before every Council Meeting. Thanks for all you do to lead our congregation.



Zoom Coffee Hour with Pastor

Pastor's Zoom Coffee Hour will be paused until further notice.
Pastor will reevaluate the need as we continue to move forward.



Thank You For Your Support!

Thank you for your continuing financial support during this time! Our regular monthly expenses continue, including staff and building expenses, as well as the expenses that enable us to continue communication, outreach, and worship. Your generosity is a profound and powerful witness to this congregation's ministry. Contributions help us serve our community and you, our congregation and family!

PASTOR KATHLEEN A. KERIN'S ORDINATION



On Saturday, July 17th, we celebrated the Ordination and Installation of our very own Pastor, Kathleen A. Kerin. It was a wonderful celebration and we thank everyone who was able to attend!

A special message from our Pastor...

A huge thank you and deep appreciation goes to the congregation for your wonderful support of my ordination on Saturday, July 17th. There were many good words spoken about the beauty of the sanctuary and the joy of being united in worship together in-person. Cat and I are grateful to be here at St. Paul's and look forward to serving with you.

Pastor Kathleen

Current COVID SAFETY INFORMATION for Houses of Worship

Protocols for Covid have been removed in the Philadelphia area. If you follow the updates, you know that the mask requirements have been dropped. However, your Re-opening Team has decided to continue to mask while we are inside to protect those who are not yet vaccinated.

Those who are fully vaccinated (2 weeks following their last vaccination shot) will be invited to the option of masking inside the church building beginning on Sunday, July 4th. If you are not vaccinated, please continue to wear your mask when coming into the building. A sign-in sheet will be maintained for the time being. It will be helpful should contact tracing be necessary.

Hymn books will be available for use and we will continue to sing softly. I will ask that everyone continue to sing gently as we prayerfully hope and wait for the Philadelphia area to reach a 70% vaccination rate.

If you are not feeling well, please stay home. We will continue to live-stream worship on our St. Paul's Facebook

Please Note...

The Church building is beginning to open up slowly. We have welcomed back the AA Group to meet. We are planning a summer activity program for children in July. The Food Pantry continues to serve the needs of the food insecure here in Philly by providing pre-bagged food for people who come to the front door. The Sanctuary is open for prayer when people call Pastor ahead of time. Vaccinations will help us to be open sooner; many places are offering walk-in opportunities.

While we do not yet have a fully open building, Pastor and Courtney are in the building on a regular basis. If you need to come down to the church, please simply give Courtney a call to let her know that you will be in. If you are in possession of a church key, please let Courtney know you are in the building when you arrive. The Food Pantry is here twice a week and uses the front vestibule and Chapel. While we are in-person for worship and the Atrium and Bathroom have been open, the remainder of the building still needs to be readied before we can use it. Sophia Academy will also be in session during some of the summer months.

SUMMER FUN!



Centered around a “Big Idea” and Bible story, *I Wonder Wednesdays* were formed to begin the walk back to gathering together, seeing one another in person, and most of all, creating a feeling of energy for both our children and our adults. It has been a long journey of Covid for everyone – people in our Congregation and people in our community. I Wonder Wednesdays are an opportunity to turn the corner and remember we are never alone because God is always with us.

Great thanks go to Jill Todd, Shireen Bethala-George, and Robin Miranda for jumping up and jumping in when our Council President Lynn Geisser asked if they would be willing to come together and create some fun and learning for children of the congregation.

SERVING IN WORSHIP



Wouldn't it be great to hear different voices in our worship? Some people hear low voices better, some hear high voices easier. Share the Good News by signing up to be a part of the Worship Service on Sunday mornings by reading the two Lessons for the day. Call the Church Office if you would like to join us! It's been a while, not to be concerned!

Pastor Kathleen will work with you to be comfortable!

READ ALONG WITH YOUR CHURCH LEADERSHIP!

This is an opportunity to get in on an “all-church” event. Your Church Council and Stewardship Team are opening a new book this August. It's called, “Ask, Thank, Tell,” by Charles R. Lane. It's a fairly short read, broken up by brief chapters that lends itself to weekly reading and reflection. The time for reading is structured to be doable whether you are a quick reader or one who lingers over the words a bit longer. Your reading encourages you to reflect on your own perspectives of God's call to care for all that we have and then to be open to weaving your ideas together with the understanding that all we have is God's.

The book is available on Amazon and Thrift Books and perhaps some other second-hand outlets. See Pastor if you would like a copy. I will also be glad to provide chapters individually at a time if you would like to join in on reflecting how it is that God calls us to care for all that has been created and entrusted to us to care for and enjoy.

Ask, Thank, Tell
by Charles R. Lane
Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, 2006
ISBN 0-8066-5263-2

“When asked about their faith, most people I know will talk first about what is going on in their congregation and only later, if at all, will they describe what is going on in their relationship with Jesus. Most of us are far more inclined to talk about the activities of our congregation than we are to talk about how Jesus is active in our lives. The dominant church paradigm continues to be membership, not discipleship.” (Ask, Thank, Tell. P. 13)



The Food Pantry continues to serve the Olney Community and outside communities during the pandemic. Since March 16, we have given out more than 575 bags! This is a blessing!

If you would like to donate and support our Food Pantry, please contact Tara McFarland or our Office Coordinator, Courtney Williams during office hours.



Hello St. Paul's! I hope you all are enjoying your summer.

On July 31st, I celebrated 2 years as Office Coordinator. It has been an honor to be here and I look forward to more time here!

Just a couple updates/reminders:

The Summer Office Hours are:

Monday- 9:30am-2:30pm

Tuesday- 9:30am-3:30pm

Wednesday 9:30am-12pm (remote)

Thursday 9:30am-3:30pm

I will be out of the office the first week of August and will return on Monday, August 9th.

I hope you all continue to enjoy your summer!

Courtney

WHAT IS A STEWARD?

A steward is a person who is responsible for and takes care of something they do not own, a manager. As Christians, we believe that God created all things, past, present and future. In gratefulness we accept responsibility for the care of others and for all creation. We are compelled to be serious stewards (managers) because of our commitment to Christ. He gave his life to redeem us. Beginning with our Baptism, we were welcomed into the family of Christ. Now, it is up to us to put this into place in our every-day lives.



WHO IS A STEWARD? As part of the family of God, you're a steward, I'm a steward, everybody is a steward! How can this be? Our sense of stewardship is manifested in our relationships, our compassion for others, our care for the environment and all that God has created. Because God loves us and has provided for us, we respond by having a need to give. Have you been a lector? A Sunday School Teacher? Participated in adult education? Volunteered for a committee? Helped to clean up? Donated to Katie's Cupboard or helped to distribute food? Kept in contact with people who are ill or homebound? Helped with the Olney Arts Youth Festival? Do you give offering to the church? These are all acts of stewardship. These are all ministries. Pray that you will be faithful in all parts of your stewardship and grow in it.

Kathleen A. Kerin, Pastor
Matthew Brenner, Organist
Courtney L. Williams, Office Coordinator

Announcements

PRAYER CARD

Prayer Card – Time after Pentecost 2021

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want...
He leads me in right paths for his
namesake.* Psalm 23: 1,3

Sunday

Shepherd me, O Lord

Monday

Shepherd our pastor as she shepherds us.

Tuesday

Help me to bring Christ to others in all I do.

Wednesday

Lead me, O God, in right paths on all of my
life's journey.

Thursday

May I plant seeds of wholeness in the
community.

Friday

Guide me to shepherd the next generation in
your ways.

Saturday

Thanks be to you, O Lord, for your presence in
my life.

Birthdays

Elsie Mueller- 21st
Grace Morlock - 21st
Arlene Hayes - 23rd
Norma Mueller- 31st

***HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL AUGUST
BIRTHDAYS!***

****Please contact Courtney in the office
if you would like to be included in our monthly
birthday listings.****



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Courtney in the office

for more information.

Please pray for our servicemen and women.

St. Paul's Mission

St. Paul's Church is a congregation in mission! Guided by our Mission Statement, we live according to these words: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered community of faith in Olney, Committed to sharing with all people the Word of God, Spiritual Fellowship, and Christ's reality in our lives.