

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

February
2022

The Voice

Newsletter

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Message from our Pastor

Welcome Beloveds to the month of FEBRUARY!

There are so many areas to honor and give witness to this month! Take a look on the National Today Calendar, and you will find at least 30 areas to give witness to this month. As many may be aware, February is a Black History Month, and perhaps some know it is also International Friendship Month too.

But did you know it is also Great American Pie Month, National Sweet Potato Month, and National Snack Month? I'd love to investigate just how many varieties of pies there actually ARE (by taste-tests, of course). Or maybe check into ways snacks can be considered whole meals or what the word "snack" really means.

Poignant and powerful arenas of witness are also a part of this month. In addition to Black History, it is also a time to be reminded of Women Inventors, LGBT History, and Cancer Prevention. Sometimes when we take the time to really see the "big picture," we give space and grace to the working of the Holy Spirit. We give ourselves freedom and encouragement to think creatively and compassionately.

I call time spent in this way *creative procrastination*. Spend some time educating yourself; learn something about a particular issue. And then allow those thoughts to "marinate" in wonder. Why witness to this day? What is the need here? How can the Christian Community bring support to it? These are

all good marinating questions.

February is a good time to marinate on where and what God is calling us to do, to be, to serve, and to bring witness to. Our Annual Meeting is a time to look at all that we have done and then to look forward. It is also a time to see where our challenges are and seek out new ways to create spaces and places of grace where we give ourselves the opportunity and availability for the Holy Spirit to speak into our spirits.

We gather together as a Faith Community for our Annual Meeting **ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH**. I invite and encourage everyone to join in. You can participate on Zoom and in-person. Come....start the process of "creative procrastination." Think together, be inspired, and feel the presence of the Holy Spirit as she pours out the grace and love of Christ upon our work And our hearts.

I also invite you to think about where you are this year. And then to affirm that you are loved and welcomed home to the faith community of St. Paul's.

Peace,

Pastor

[1 https://nationaltoday.com/february-holidays/#feb-2](https://nationaltoday.com/february-holidays/#feb-2)

Virtual Worship

with St. Paul's



If you feel more comfortable and safe remaining at home for worship; you can still participate in worship! We continue to livestream our Sunday Morning worship at 10:30 each week on our Facebook Page and upload it onto our YouTube Channel the next day.

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.

Welcome to Sunday Worship!



Kathleen Kerin, Pastor

The Sanctuary is full of the joy of Christ each Sunday. Worship begins at 10:30 am; please plan to arrive a few minutes before we begin. We continue to sing in worship, softly and fully masked.

Children are invited to the altar for a conversation with Pastor and Lectors read the scripture lessons for the day.

Bulletins are mailed to those who do not have access to the internet.

Each week on the Saturday just prior to worship, emails with a Saturday Message from Pastor, a copy of this week's bulletin, recorded hymns to listen to, and other important information to be shared are sent out.

If you do not currently receive regular weekly emails and would like to, (or if you know someone who would like to receive a bulletin at home) please call the church office and let the Office Coordinator, Courtney, know. She can be reached at: 215-424-4800.

St. Paul's Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on Sunday, February 13th at 12 noon on ZOOM. Please make a note that this will NOT be an in-person meeting, for the health and safety of all. The Executive Team will meet on Thursday, February 10th at 7:30 pm via ZOOM. A link will be sent out that morning. Thank you to the Leadership of St. Paul's for your prayer and support in guiding the faith community of St. Paul's.

Communion

Communion continues to be offered on the first Sunday of each month. Pastor invites you to continuous communion to receive a sealed wine/juice and wafer kit and to return to your seat to partake. If you are more comfortable, the kits will be available in the Narthex so that you may partake without going to the altar.

Senior Wednesdays

Senior Wednesdays will begin on February 16th. Masks and vaccinations are required.

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!

Announcements



Being fully vaccinated is the best way to protect against serious complications from COVID; masks have been proven to reduce the risk that unvaccinated and vaccinated people will be infected with COVID.

St. Paul's does not require everyone who enters to be vaccinated; however, everyone is required to wear a mask.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to fully participate in worship! For the time being, please sing softly. If you are not feeling well, please stay home for the health and safety of everyone. Worship will continue to be live-streamed on our St. Paul's Facebook page. Worship will also be available on the St. Paul's YouTube page. You can find us at **St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Olney.**

Let's continue to love as Christ calls us; making sure we protect the most vulnerable in our midst the best that we can.

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!



WEDNESDAYS AT THE TABLE

Pastor's Kitchen Table will continue

Wednesday, February 9th

with a discussion about compassion as a spiritual discipline. "In themselves, spiritual discipline can do nothing; they can only get us to a place where something can be done."
– Douglas Rumford.

Join us on Wednesday, February 9th at 7:30pm on Zoom.



Announcements



The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 6th directly following worship. We will meet in the sanctuary directly following worship. A Zoom option will also be available. The link will be provided in the Saturday email. Annual reports are available for pickup.



FAITH FORMATION

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 20th after worship. We will meet in the Luther Room.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

-LENT begins on March 2nd with Ash Wednesday. Worship for this day will be held in the Chapel at Noon and in the evening at 7:30. Ashes will be distributed at both services.

On the following five Wednesdays during Lent, St. Paul's will be participating in the Northeast/west Conference worship together. Church locations and days will be announced shortly. Keep an eye out for notices in the weekly bulletin and emails.

-**COMMUNION AND VISITOR TRAINING** is being planned based on the availability of those who will be participating. Julia Menzo of Liberty Lutheran Services is sponsoring the day and Pastor Sandra Brown will be leading this event. Please let Pastor know your availability.



The Food Pantry continues to serve the Olney Community and outside communities during the pandemic. Since March 16, we have given out more than 650 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.

THE LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

If you would like to get involved in helping those who have been affected by IDA, the Synod website has ways to help. Financial Contributions can go to Lutheran Disaster Response-

**Eastern PA:
Lutheran Congregational Services
7002 Butler Pike
Amber, PA 19002**

#GivingTuesday is coming up at the end of the month on November 30th. Created in 2012, Giving Tuesday was created as an opportunity for people to give back to their communities and it has become an international act of generosity in and for local communities around the world. Watch for further updates. You can also check out the Facebook page for Lutheran Disaster Response - and see how LDR has been helping to care for those affected by recent storms, including IDA.

Go to ministrylink.org for more information

Our Benevolence offerings help many people and ministries locally, nationally, and worldwide.

Locally we support the food pantry, the Parish Mission Fund, Lowell School, Olney Youth Arts, and Bear Creek campships for our youth.

Every week each of us probably receives numerous mailings from charitable institutions which range from schools, colleges, hospitals, veteran's groups, disaster relief, and countless more. Though many of them are worthy of our help, we cannot possibly give to all of them. Some of us give to the United Way and that fund distributes to many organizations.

Our partnership support goes to the SEPA Synod which distributes funds to many worthwhile programs much in the same way as the United Way. Ninety percent of the funding is used locally such as in Hurricane Ida and other areas that were flooded. Other programs include World Hunger and disaster relief. Anything that we give to partnership support adds St. Paul's contributions to the "larger pots" of SEPA and ELCA and helps to make a great impact both locally and internationally.

We are grateful for the financial support of everyone who has donated regularly by mail or online giving.

Every gift makes a difference.



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

PRAYER CARD

Prayer Focus Card Epiphany 2022

Where is the child who was born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising.
Matthew 2:2

Sunday - I give all praise to Jesus, the Light of the World.

Monday - Help me to celebrate that God is revealed in Jesus to the whole world.

Tuesday - Accept my life as the treasure I offer

Wednesday - Nourish me with the blessings of your scripture.

Thursday - Make me an instrument, Lord, of your peace.

Friday - Shine the light of your justice upon my heart.

Saturday - May I always strive to use the grace given me to bring to others the good news of Jesus Christ.

Birthdays

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL FEBUARY BIRTHDAYS!

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



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Please pray for our servicemen and women.

To advertise in our

Newsletter,

please contact

Courtney in the office

for more information.

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.