

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

The Voice

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

July
2021

A Message from our Pastor

Dear Beloveds,

As June drew to a close, I had a wonderful opportunity to welcome a family into our Sanctuary to say goodbye to a beloved member of their family. It's hard to see and feel the deep grieving of people who lose those close to them. Yet, at the same time, the message of resurrection could not be any closer.

During this particular funeral, I offered a welcome, prayers and a benediction for the family and guests. I was blessed to be able to listen to the impactful message of a family member as he held up his beloved Aunt for her deep family relationship and the ways in which she loved those around her and united family members. I traveled to the cemetery to help the family say goodbye and commit her body to the earth.

The young speaker's message rose throughout the sanctuary, saying that death has a very short-lived victory because life and resurrection claim the final word. Thanks be to God for this courageous and wise message! The proclamation of Luke's gospel asks the women who came to the tomb on Easter Morning, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has been raised!"

Indeed, Christ has been raised! As our baptismal liturgy states, "By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to new life in you." (ELW, p 230). And just as Christ has been raised to new life, we have the gift of new life here on earth and the promise that we will be with God in the heavenly realms when that time comes.

We have been set free from sin and death; set free to care for those in need; set free to care for one another! How can we begin to come back together after a long year of being apart? Pick up the phone or take up a pen or grab your texting device! We are planning for a new directory listing of those people in our midst to be published sometime in August. For now, continue reaching out to one another as you can in after worship.

Mark the sign of the cross on your body, and hold these words close as you go forth:

"And now may the God who keeps our going out and our coming in

from this time forevermore,

hold you tenderly, wipe your tears, enable hope to be reborn in you,

and heal your heart with the blessing of love,

this day, and forevermore." (Words taken from "A Good Ending" by David Sparks; United Church Publishing House, ON, 2014. P 167.)

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Kathleen

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.

Please come together to meet and greet one another outside on the front porch after worship. Pastor is looking to have treats each week, depending on the weather. If you would like to contribute, please DO! It can be as simple as a granola bar (individually packaged) or small packages of cookies or any other individually packaged treat. Bring it with you and, if you can, please let the office know ahead of time!



St. Paul's Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be Monday, July 12th at 7:30pm. The meeting will take place on Zoom. Please have your reports in to Courtney by Thursday, July 8th by noon. 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!

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 page.

Pray for the health and safety of the world and the people around you.

Let's continue to be aware of changing protocols and making sure we protect the most vulnerable in our midst the best we can.

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!



We are excited to announce that we will be having Vacation Bible School on Wednesdays in July!! Sessions will be in person and through Zoom.

Join us for "I Wonder Wednesdays!"

July 7 (in person) at 6:00PM

July 14 (Zoom) at 6:00PM

July 21 (in person) at 6:00PM

July 28 (Zoom) at 6:00PM

We will have Bible lessons, snacks, activities, and crafts. Adults from the congregation are welcome to join us during in person sessions to welcome back the children.

CONGRATS!



Dr. Angelica Pinninti - MD/MBA- May 7, 2021
Temple University College of Medicine

Dr. Aaron Pinninti - MD - May 18, 2021
Drexel University College of Medicine

Selina Sithya June 5, 2021
Mount St. Joseph's High School

Ella Whitmore Scholarship Awards

Fall 2021 Semester

Sophia Sithya – Temple University Honors Program
Joel Marlapudi – Nova Southeastern University
Selina Sithya – Temple University Honors Program

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!

SOPHIA ACADEMY'S GRADUATION

Sophia Academy held its graduation services on June 4, 2021 in our sanctuary.

Graduate Joseph Ruiz welcomed friends and family and talked about what Sophia Academy had meant to him. Valedictorian Kameron Barber shared the legacy his class left as well as thankfulness for his parents' sacrifice to allow him to attend Sophia. Bishop Henry Moses encouraged each graduate to leap into what God called them to by having them actually jump a broom.





The Food Pantry continues to serve the Olney Community and outside communities during the pandemic. Since March 16, we have given out more than 550 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! **Just an update:** 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

Stewardship and Prayer

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances... 1 Thessalonians 16-18

Stewardship has to do with every aspect of living out personal faith. (From "A history of Stewardship" by Dr. William O. Avery of former Gettysburg Seminary.) Prayer is an integral part of living out personal faith.

In Christian churches, the church building, although important, does not define the congregation. The individual congregation is primarily a "body of believers", all those who gather to proclaim their faith in Jesus through worship, study, and many forms of service. Praying for the many aspects of the body of believers, the church, we lift up our longings and hopes, and our brokenness as St. Paul's community of faith.



- Thankfulness for the ministry of St. Paul's
- Guidance for ministry with members, friends and the Olney community
- Commitment to getting to know individuals – their hopes, joys, needs, and struggles
- Awareness and acknowledgment of the many services provided by members and friends
- Altar Guild
- Visitation Ministry
- Lectors
- Teachers
- Van Drivers
- Bell Choir
- Food Pantry Ministry and Volunteers
- Hospitality Group
- Building Managers; Property Team
- Finance Team
- Stewardship Team
- Congregation Council
- All volunteer efforts
- Pastor, Interim Organist, Office Coordinator
- Personal and private ministries unknown to others
- ELCA (the national church), SEPA (Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod)

With grateful hearts, let us converse with the Triune God.

Ann Farley

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

Lois Winkler - 6th
Ruth Mischke - 21st

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL JULY 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.