

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

March
2022

The Voice Newsletter

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Message from our Pastor

Blessed March Beloveds!

The teacher of little ones in me usually connects March with Lions and Lambs. The windy days (lions) of March give way to the calmness (lambs) of April; at least that's the way the story goes. Yet, that isn't exactly how the liturgical seasons unfold. In fact, the liturgical season turns worldly weather patterns upside down. Go figure.

The season of Lent that we are about to journey through is a time to take a deeper look at the signs that God is pointing us to. There are more than 500 "federally approved" signs for use to direct, protect, and inform the travelling public.^[1] That's a LOT of information! There is also a move away from the use of words on signs and stick with symbols. Words can create language barriers, whereas symbols are more easily universal.

While the world's weather is winding up the winds, weather in the Christian community of faith is preparing us to listen for the still, small voice of God calling. During Lent, God whispers *"Be still my beloveds. Set for a moment, or two, or three. And even if these things are difficult to do in the daily world you live in – focus your ears each day for the sounds of my Creation – a world I created in love for you."*

Creation is a sign of blessing; to be seen, to be heard, and/or to be touched by. The world and all that is in it belongs to God. In God's eyes we are made in the deep love of God; loved and valued eternally.

What would it mean to take this message with us as we journey through Lent this year? Take the message of blessing and encouragement with you when you go shopping, when you go to work, or when you sit at lunch with your friends in school. When you happen to run into your Aunt Mary at the food store or talk with a friend you haven't seen in a while.

How might we be encouragers of the gospel; signs of God's gracious love to the world in the actions WE inhabit this season? Perhaps choose one day in the week and bless or encourage as many people as you can. Not flattery, but honest "seeing" of their gifts or character that you see. Maybe that means a silent prayer; maybe it means speaking it out loud. Create a blessing for someone you think of. A picture, a few words, or a prayer. Words of encouragement. It's all blessing.

The "upside-down-ness" of March as the church's season of Lent comes quietly in the midst of a loud and roaring mother nature is a sign that reminds us that Christ comes to us in ways we don't always see and, certainly, rarely expect. In the midst of calm or chaos, the Cross of Christ is our constant and consistent sign that we are loved.

Blessing Beloveds,

Pastor

¹ <https://worksafetci.com/2020/07/how-many-road-signs-are-there-in-the-united-states/>

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 Monday, March 14th at 7:30pm on ZOOM. The Executive Team will meet on Thursday, March 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 continues. 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.

Warm Our Hearts / Dry Our Feet Capital Campaign Update

The members and friends of St. Paul's Church are truly wonderful people!

Through their very generous donations of over \$30,000, we are well on our way to completing the two property related projects that we were forced to confront. If you have spent time in our Sanctuary, you felt the warmth from not only the people worshiping in the pews, but also the heat coming from the radiators produced by our newly installed boiler. Next on our to-do list, will be to address the damage in Parish Hall, caused by this past summer's storms.

I want to recognize those people who have contributed to the campaign and continue to keep St. Paul's in their hearts. I especially want to thank Pastor Kerin for her tenacity in reaching out to the Synod to obtain an \$11,000 grant, which is in addition to the contributions we received.

Thank you all!

Lynn Geisser

Capital Campaign

Donors

Linda Weber Witmer
Wayne & Lynn Geisser
John & Jill Todd-
Pasquella
Friday Nighters
Grace Morlock
Prem & Grace Marlapudi
Lois Winkler
Marianne Fabry
Laura and Ralph Neubaur
Henry and Sharon Baier
John and Kathy Elfrey
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Tom Holmes

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Paula and Thomas
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Gabby and Angel Berrios
Judy Frei
Nina Sanders
Robbin Brown
Chris Brenner
EM Schwartz
Else Frasch
Bernice Cleveland
Gretchen & Mike Petersen
Janet Stott
St. Paul's Altar Guild
Eric Schock
Anna Mario

Ann Marie Pinto
Sandy & Mitchell Pinsley
Lois Hulet
Joann & Art Liston
Andrea Brooks
Pastor & Mrs. Rodney
Kopp
Marion W. Mauer
Judy & Bill Rose
Christine Kelly
Karen Kelly
Roger Zepernick
Theresa & Charles Pinkerton
Gary & Linda Wagner
Kristin & Graham Christensen
Steve Rittler
Arlene Hayes

Announcements

March 9
UP: Psalms of Praise and Presence
Tabor (4843 N Mascher)

March 16
FROM: Psalms of Deliverance
St. Paul's (5900 N 5th)

March 23
UPON: Psalms of Confidence and Trust
Faith (4150 Woodhaven Rd)

March 30
THROUGH: Psalms of Struggle,
Growth and Lament
St. John's (3101 Tyson Ave)

April 6
DURING: Psalms of Waiting
Redemption (8001 Bustleton Ave)

Links for participating virtually
will be provided.

Psalms for the Journey
Join with our conference for
worship at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday evenings in Lent.



During **Lent**, services will be held in various church sanctuaries around the conference. **This Wednesday, March 9th we will be a Tabor Lutheran Church** and the theme will be Psalms of Praise and Presence. We will gather at 7:30 pm. **St. Paul's will host on March 16th** and the theme will be Psalms of Deliverance. I do hope you will attend and welcome the congregations around our NEnW (Northeast and West) Conference!



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!

WEDNESDAYS AT THE TABLE

Pastor's Kitchen Table will resume on Wednesday, April 20th at 7:30pm as we enter into a joyous Easter Season!



Please join us on Zoom!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The **SEPA Synod Assembly** is coming up! It will be held on **Saturday, April 30th on Zoom**. Pastor would like to have St. Paul's represented well again this year. It is a great opportunity to learn about the work of the Synod and how your financial offerings help others. The Synod does a fabulous job with the technology. Please join Pastor for this wonderful day!

-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.

KATIE'S

~St. Paul's Food Pantry~

CLIPBOARD

Wednesdays
9am-12pm

"...For God loves a cheerful giver."
-2 Corinthians 9:7b



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.

UPDATE: The Food Pantry will be moving its location to the Education Wing sometime in April. In addition to the increased use of the Luther Room for Faith Formation, Senior Wednesdays, and AA Meetings, the Education Wing is being redesigned to become the new St. Paul's Community Wing.

Katie's Cupboard will be one of the most recent tenants! Stay tuned for more exciting news and ways you can help with this new and exciting transition! The Wednesday morning hours will remain the same.

Stewardship Highlights the work of the ALTAR GUILD and MEMORIALS at St. Paul's

Your impact in our call to spread the gospel is everywhere in the work of the Church. You are the hands and the feet of ministry, and the gift of your time and talent is important. Financial giving towards the work of ministry is also important because it enables us to provide for the needs of worship, memorial and honorary giving, and the work of the wider church, just to name a few. Below are some specific areas you might choose to give to.

Your gifts to the **Altar Guild** help provide for the important tools for weddings, funerals, special services (such as Christmas and Easter), and weekly Sunday worship. Often the people of St. Paul's choose to memorialize birthdays or the date on which a loved one or friend has passed. One way to do this is through a financial gift for the purchase of **Altar Flowers**. Flowers are also placed on the Altar for special seasons such as Christmas and Easter. During those times, additional request forms are provided.

Another way to remember friends and loved ones is by your donation to the **Garden of Sweet Memories**. These funds go to support the work of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA. This is the Synodical body that supports the work of the church in our area here in Pennsylvania. The Synod gets involved in areas of advocacy, ending hunger and homelessness, supporting clergy and lay leadership, and many, many more.

There are many opportunities to memorialize or honor those close to you. In order to support you with an ease of giving, please mark your check or online gift with the note: **Altar Guild, Flower Fund, Bulletins, or Garden of Sweet Memories**. This way your gift can be directed properly. If you have any questions, please feel comfortable to contact Courtney in the church office.

BENEVOLENCE AT ST. PAUL'S

Benevolence is defined in the Oxford Dictionary as the quality, or the desire, of being kind and helpful. Additionally, it means an act of good will. St. Paul's extends the hand of Christ through your gifts of time, talents, and treasure to support a variety of organizations.

Some of the places we support are Bear Creek Scholarship, World Mission Fund, Philadelphia Protestant Home, Lutheran Seminary, Senior Ministries, Lowell School, the Parish Mission Fund, and Olney Youth Arts.

These organizations will be highlighted in our monthly newsletters and weekly bulletins as we move through 2022.



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

PRAYER CARD

Prayer Focus Card

Lent 2022

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses. Psalm 51:1

Sunday – Help me to draw myself unto you as I examine my wrongdoings and my sinfulness.

Monday – May I seek and feel your presence in my darkest moments.

Tuesday – O God, cleanse me from my sin.

Wednesday – As I struggle for quiet and peace in this busy, Sometimes hostile world, be by my side.

Thursday – May I move forward in your love and give testimony to all that comes from you.

Friday – Guide me along my way that I may love others as you have loved me.

Saturday – Thanks to you, Lord, the willing victim who died for my sins that I may live.

Birthdays

MARIANNE VESCOVICH- 5TH
ANN FLAMM - 16TH
JANET STOTT-24TH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL MARCH BIRTHDAYS!

*HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO COURTNEY
(MARCH 28TH),
OUR OFFICE COORDINATOR!*

****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.