

May
2022

The Voice

Newsletter
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Message from our Pastor

“Doing nothing is a radical, revolutionary act. It frees you from the universal enslavement of our age: enslavement to the clock. The clock measures doing, but not being.”
- Peter Kreeft (from *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*)

Beloveds,

This month let's participate together in a radical act! Let's welcome the idea that taking time to **be** is okay – and even important – in our daily walk of life and faith.

I invite you this May to join the revolution! If you are a person, like me, who lives out your care for others by being who you are in the world around you and to the people you encounter every day – you are already a revolutionary! Beloveds, what you say and do MATTERS. People may hear what you say, they might even listen too. But people will definitely notice what you DO.

This month, step into the slow lane – intentionally! Get on the slower line at the grocery store. Park a little further from the front door of work, the library, or your doctor's office; build in a little more time between appointments or eat slower. These are all ways to intentionally slow down.

As part of my reading about Spiritual Practices for Wednesday evening's Zoom discussions, reading the chapter about Opening Ourselves Up to God, I considered the importance of slowing down and how it helps us to notice things we might otherwise miss. Perhaps something in the natural world or people around us would catch our eye; but

no matter what it is, slowing down with intention allows the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart in a way that you might not regularly experience. You might even think of slowing down as a new way of prayer; taking time to pay attention to God in a new and faithful way.

“Hurry affects the way the church does ministry.” (If I were American Chef Emeril Lagasse I would follow that with a “BAM!”) Rushing along the road to spiritual growth can lead us to create a culture of expectation and power that can cause us to miss what Jesus is trying to convey to us.

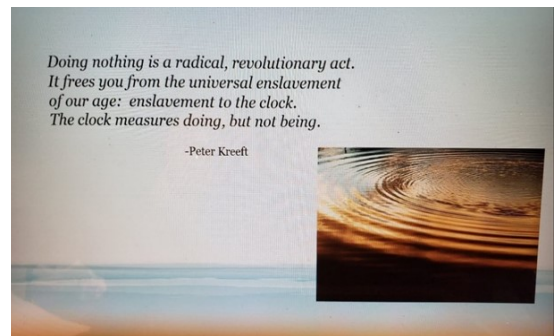
Where are we being called to as a congregation?

This is the big question that I will be speaking with our Leadership Team about during the coming months. Your thoughts about where St. Paul's is today and your part in furthering the ministry of the Gospel are things we need to be thinking about. And Summer is the PERFECT time for doing so!

Is Sunday Worship where you want the focus to be? Do you want to see growth in helping the community around us? What about faith formation ... for our children AND adults? Do you feel we are able to maintain our presence in the community, and how might we continue to do so? These and other important questions will be the focus of our summer. This summer, I invite you to slow down and take the time to consider these important questions.

Grace and Peace, Pastor

Adele Ahlberg Calhoun, *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook* (Intervarsity, IL, 2015).




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 10:30am 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!

The Sanctuary is full of the joy of Christ each Sunday. Worship begins at 10:30am; please plan to arrive a few minutes before we begin. Masks are now optional.

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

We will mail you a bulletin each week if you 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, May 9th at 7:30pm on ZOOM. The Executive Team will meet on Thursday, May 5th 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. 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

Faith Formation

We had a blast on Palm Sunday! Thanks to all who came out for coffee hour, palm cross-making, the egg hunt, AND fellowship!!

On Sunday, May 1st join us after worship. We will be looking into Easter, Spring, and NEW LIFE! Join us for coffee and snacks too.

We will also meet again on May 22nd.

Look for your invitation in our weekly emails!



Beloveds,

Please note that wearing a mask while inside the building is now strongly recommended, but not required. Remember that masks have been proven to be the way we can help to protect one another from the Covid infection.

Gatherings will continue forward, and the building remains open to all.

Announcements

Whitmore Scholarship Fund

Applications are now being accepted for the Spring.

Please call the office for an online application. Submit the application and official transcript to



cfbrenner@icloud.com. The deadline is May 15th.

A **First Communion Conversation** will take place during the month of May. We will meet twice during the week, sometime after school. If your child has not had First Communion and you would like he, she, or they to participate, please contact Pastor at 201-638-8217. Leave a message or text. First Communion will take place in June during worship.



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 continue every Wednesday at 7:30pm as we enter a joyous Easter Season! We will be talking about Spiritual Practices for the May. The first topic will be *Opening Ourselves to God*. Join us from your living room!



Here is the link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82686450408?pwd=SUlCVWE1dE11dVZoZ2kwTDVKUUtGQT09>

Meeting ID: 826 8645 0408
Passcode: 141849

Join us next time on Wednesday, May 18th.

The Link will also be available on our Facebook Page.



REFER TO OUR WEEKLY BULLETIN FOR EVENTS COMING UP IN JUNE.

KATIE'S

CLIPBOARD

~St. Paul's Food Pantry~

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

Wednesdays
9am-12pm



The Food Pantry continues to serve the Olney Community and outside communities during the pandemic.

Since March 16, we have given out more than 745 bags! This is a blessing!

If you would like to donate and support our Food Pantry, please contact Tara McFarland Gladden

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.

Take a look at some pictures from our Food Pantry Moving Day!



Stewardship Highlights FAITH FORMATION at St. Paul's

Faith Formation is a very large umbrella. It spans the length of time and age. How is it that your faith is fed and grown? What is the seed of faith and how was it (or not) planted in your heart?

St. Paul's has a history of opportunities for community and education in our faith. Before the pandemic set in, the activity of learning and expressing our faith had begun to lose its momentum. This past year, we have had a wonderful team of creative and caring women take the helm of a new Faith Formation Program. They have formed a thoughtful schedule for busy families and folks – setting up a structure that works for all generations to join in! Faith Formation has even started a new kind of Coffee Hour. After church we gather, talk, and laugh while we have a little something to eat and something to drink. Everyone is invited, and we span the generations!

Weeknights weren't working well for gathering; and Sunday have become a wonderful connection of community and learning. The Faith Formation Team has embraced this as they plan for another year of activities and learning as the school year comes to a close. In addition, they are planning for a second summer of a new kind of VBS. Busy schedules can STILL have time for the gift of faith, formation, and growth in Christ.

Meeting God through conversation, reading, and even art is what grows our faith; what gives us strength, and especially, what forms and shapes our faith in God the Creator and God's son, Jesus. As Paul says to the Ephesians, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8)

Faith is a gift, and it is nurtured with time and encouragement. It is important to also practice our faith. And providing places to practice the language to express it to others is part of the ministry (and responsibility) of the church.

Bravo to St. Paul's Faith Formation Team –Shireen Bethala-George, Robin Miranda, & Jill Todd.

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



PRAYER CARD

Birthdays

Prayer Focus Card
Easter 2022

*I shall not die, but I shall live and recount
the deeds of the Lord.*

-Psalm 118: 17

Sunday- The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Monday – Thanks be to God for the victory over death!

Tuesday -- Holy God, inspire me to follow the risen Jesus.

Wednesday – Pour your gift of love into my heart.

Thursday – May my heart be fixed on Jesus.

Saturday – Grant me faith to trust that you abide with me on earth.

DOLORES CRIMIAN-13TH

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL
MAY 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.