

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

November 2021



A Message from our Pastor

Bountiful Blessings Beloveds!!

Fall has finally arrived with beautiful colors and leaves to be piled high for fun and, eventually, picking up for the community compost! Next year's gardens are grateful for the gifts of leaves from this year as they breakdown and create good soil for the beauty and bounty of food and plants that grow in them...and good soil is important for growth.

There is a wonderful song I came across in a small Methodist hymnal when I was in Seminary. I used it for a team worship project and, later on, came across it in our ELW Hymnal (#512). It's called "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil." Good soil is not the only thing needed for growth, of course. But it certainly provides bounty and possibility. The lyrics of the song ask for God's gift of love and peace to take root in our hearts, and when we lose our way the bring us back to the guidance and gift of understanding that a faithful life grows with openness, warmth, and a willingness to let Christ be our guide.

*Lord, let my heart be good soil,
Open to the see of your Word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
Where love can grow and peace is understood.*

Beloveds, good soil is formed by the journey of all of life's experiences. Good soil is formed in the joy of relationships all around us. Good soil is formed in work and spirits that are generous. Good soil is formed in intentional acts of care for others and care for ourselves. Good soil is formed in the warmth and wrap of joy in our faith. Good soil is also produced from heat that breaks down material things – like a pile of Fall leaves. The heat of loss, or change, or illness. The questions of why or days we feel we are walking through a maze. Yet, in all of these experiences we are held in the hands of God. Our God; who

rejoices *and* grieves with us. Our God, who loves us.

Thankful for the good soil that is "composting" all around and within our congregation, I am encouraged more and more to trust the guiding of the Holy Spirit. Beloveds, let's continue to pray for an ever-growing accumulation of good soil from the giving all around us in this place. Deuteronomy tells us about the good soil of land and produce that God prepares for God's people and how they respond:

"Once you enter the land that GOD, your God, is giving you as an inheritance and take it over and settle down, you are to take some of all the first fruits of what you grow in the land that GOD, your God, is giving you, put them in a basket and go to the place GOD, your God, sets apart for you to worship him." Deuteronomy 26:1-2

We continue to form good soil at St. Paul's. Rich and filled with nutrients that will keeps seeds fed and safe until they are ready to sprout. Many seeds have begun to sprout, and many more wait in the quiet and safe places for the time that is right for them. St. Paul's soil is feeding and nurturing seeds of faith, planted through our relationships, our worship, our giving, our study, and our prayers.

During November, as we think about Stewardship and the Anniversary of the foundation of this congregation of God's People, remember that God grows our time, our hearts, our abilities, and our finances – all in the good soil of faith and trust.

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.

Faith Formation

Pastor Kathleen is inviting families who would like to be a part of **Faith formation for First Communion or Confirmation** into a conversation. She can be reached in the church office.

St. Paul's Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be Monday, November 8th at 7:30pm. The meeting will take place on zoom. Please have your reports in to Courtney no later than Thursday afternoon November 4th at 11am.. Courtney will send them out by Thursday afternoon to give members time to read them. 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!

Announcements

CLEAN UP

WAS A SUCCESS!

**Many thanks to the volunteers
who came out to church on October 30th
for our Autumn Reorganization and Clean-up Day.**

OUR OUTDOOR CREW

**Wayne Geisser
Bruce Drelich
Rich Hayes
Bruce Fero
Kathleen Kerin**



OUR INDOOR CREW

**Chris Brenner
Sri Pinninti
Angelene Pinninti
Vinolia Bethala
Lynne Todd
Ann Farley
Paul Oetinger
Lynn Geisser**



SANCTUARY VILLAGE

Find out about Sanctuary Village in our area.

Sponsored by the ELCA and helping those who need it most, their mission is to provide the means for people to transition out of chronic homelessness through a community of tiny houses. Email the office to receive more info.

Announcements

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY ST. PAUL'S!

St. Paul's will be celebrating its Anniversary AND Stewardship Sunday on Sunday, November 14th!

Bruce Davidson will be our guest preacher; a retired pastor who continues to serve congregations in PA and NJ and beyond during Worship!



We will have coffee and desserts immediately after worship. You will also have an opportunity to talk with Pastor Bruce!

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)

November

upcoming events

4

Executive Team
meets on
Zoom

7:00pm

7

ALL SAINTS WORSHIP

It's Daylight
Savings Time!
Don't forget to
FALL BACK!

10:30am

8

COUNCIL MTNG

ON ZOOM

7:30pm

11

**CHURCH
COMMUNITY
EVENT**

Learn about Wine
Making at Home!
Join us for this unique
and fun event!

6:00pm

14

**STEWARDSHIP
&
ANNIVERSARY
SUNDAY**

Bruce Davidson will
be our guest
preacher;

10:30am

18

**STEWARDSHIP
MTNG**

on Zoom

1:30pm

25

THANKSGIVING!

Church Office
Closed
Wednesday, Nov.
24th and
Thursday, Nov.
25th for the
Thanksgiving
Holiday.

28

ADVENT

The FIRST
SUNDAY in
ADVENT

at St. Paul's

Details: www.stpaulsinolney.org

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5900 N. 5th Street. Phila, PA 19120

We are excited to welcome Bruce Davidson to our worship on Sunday, November 14th. During this day we will be celebrating our congregational anniversary and thinking about taking care of our beloved congregation through good Stewardship. Pastor Davidson is a retired pastor; retiring from the New Jersey Synod. He also grew up in Philadelphia, attending Redemption Lutheran Church. He has served in many capacities for growing leadership, leading youth, and guiding the work advocacy in many areas of need state and synod-wide. Stay tuned for more about Bruce in our weekly emails!

Announcements



SENIOR WEDNESDAYS

AT ST. PAUL'S

WHEN
REOPENS OCTOBER 20, 2021
10AM – 12:30PM

WHERE
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
5900 NORTH 5TH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19120 ENTER
NEDRO AVENUE DOOR

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS Masks, Full Vaccination,
Hand washing/Hand Sanitizer, Social Distancing

**ALL AREA SENIORS
WELCOME!**

PROGRAM

Reflection/Prayer
Snacks and Drinks
Exercise/Tai Chi
Bingo
Monthly Blood
Pressures
Health Tip
Bible Study - Pastor
Kathleen Kerin

COSTS

DONATIONS ACCEPTED
BINGO @ .10/GAME

SPONSORS

St. Paul's Evangelical
Lutheran Church
St. Helena Catholic
Church
Mid-Atlantic Mercy
Community



-**Dec. 5th** will be the beginning of our **New Faith Formation program** following worship. Beginning in January we will meet on one Sunday afternoon and one Wednesday evening each month. *Mark your calendar for Jan. 9th after church and Wed. Jan. 26th at 6:00 pm.*

-On **Dec. 12th Church Council** will meet. in person in the Council Room after church. **Executive Team** will meet on **Thur. Dec. 9th** at 7:00 pm on ZOOM.

-**Dec. 12th** will be **Communion Sunday for December**. Bruce Fero has offered to drive our van for local folks to attend worship on Communion Sundays! Look for more information to come.

-The **LAY EUCHARIST TRAINING Seminar** for November was postponed because we didn't have enough people who could attend. We are planning for a training in February. If you are interested, please contact Ann Farley with your dates.



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.

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

Every Gift Is Precious

For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints- and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord..... 2 Corinthians: 3-5



Generosity is a gift given to every person. Sharing our gifts is an act of our faith in God. The verse above is from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthian church, asking for a collection for relief for the Christians at Jerusalem. This passage applies to us in 2021 too. If we look closely at the message, we note that “they gave themselves first to the Lord....” . This is where all gifts to ministry originate. It is the commitment to help others as God calls us to do. Within our own realities we make this commitment. What we give is our personal decision; (“...they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means.”)

Our sense of generosity emanates from our responses to God’s love and his ever-abiding presence in our lives. As you prayerfully contemplate your giving to the ministry of St. Paul’s, please know that every gift is precious.

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

PRAYER CARD

PRAYER FOCUS CARD

November-December 2021

*Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths. Ps. 25: 4*

- Sunday** Help me to prepare your path, O Lord.
- Monday** May I know your way and follow it all the days of my life.
- Tuesday** Take away the fear of self- examination.
- Wednesday** Help me to be quiet and rest in you.
- Thursday** Stir me up, God, to forever seek you.
- Friday** May I feel your divine presence, love, forgiveness and salvation in the body of the infant Jesus.
- Saturday** Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. Ps. 80:7

Birthdays

Peg Schumacher - 10th

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL
OCTOBER
BIRTHDAYS!**

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



Gary P. Winkler, Agent

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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.