

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

Oct  
2021

# The Voice

Newsletter  
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

## A Message from our Pastor

Beloveds,

I have read some of this author's work before and I like how she connects our life with the sacred rituals we engage in as followers of Christ. Along with the gift of renewal and healing that Communion brings, the author lifts us up as people who get to bring this gift to others. The blessed become the blessing.

*And the table will be wide. And the welcome will be wide.  
And the arms will open wide to gather us in. And hearts  
will open wide to receive.*

*And we will come as children who trust there is enough.  
And we will come unhindered and free. And our aching will  
be met with bread. And our sorrow will be met with wine.*

*And we will open our hands to the feast without shame.  
And we will turn toward each other without fear. And we  
will give up our appetite for despair. And we will taste and  
know of delight.*

*And we will become bread for a hungry world. And we  
will become drink for those who thirst. And the blessed will  
become the blessing. And everywhere will be the feast.*

(taken from <http://paintedprayerbook.com/2008/10/03/the-best-supper/> Jan Richardson)

The vision is a gathering of beloved people who not only are *themselves* beloved, but who also

see *others* as beloved. How powerful it is to be a part of a community of people who live together without fear; a community of people who learn to believe that we are each enough!

I see this vision in the people of St. Paul's more and more with every day that I serve as your pastor. Beloveds, I believe your hearts *are* to be bread for a hungry world. St. Paul's continues to stand as the presence of God to a hungry community. We have continued to serve as Christ calls us, in the midst of Covid losses, changes to congregational leadership, and continued challenges to maintain an old building.

We are moving forward with new gatherings and a renewal of past ones. St. Paul's has met the challenges of the last few years with strength and faithfulness, and I am grateful to be a part of this extraordinary community of God's beloved people. Keep an eye out for news of events in the coming months. There will be Christian Faith Formation, Bible Study, Social Events, and Service opportunities. Everyone is welcome; the spaces are chosen to be well-ventilated for safety. Worship continues with Reformation, All Saints, Advent, Thanksgiving, and Christmas celebrations to come!

Thank you for your spirit of love and faithfulness to the Gospel.

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.

### **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.

The Faith Formation Team and our students will be gathering in October for some fun and a look ahead. We look ahead to October for Faith Formation's New Beginnings! Stay tuned!

### **St. Paul's Council Meeting**

The next Council meeting will be Sunday October 10th at 11:30am. The meeting will take place on zoom. Please have your reports in to Courtney no later than Thursday afternoon September 7th 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!



Looking Ahead to EARLY November – There will be a training session for Lay Eucharistic Visitors on Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> here at St. Paul’s. Bring a friend and spend the day with others as we grow together! We will meet from 9 am to 2:30 pm.

Look for further details as the time gets closer.

## SENIOR WEDNESDAYS

## AT ST. PAUL’S

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

**WHERE**  
ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
5900 NORTH 5<sup>TH</sup> 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

## LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITOR TRAINING

Looking Ahead to EARLY November – There will be a training session for Lay Eucharistic Visitors on Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> here at St. Paul’s. Bring a friend and spend the day with others as we grow together! We will meet from 9 am to 2:30



Mark your calendars now~ A clean up and out in our church!

## CLEAN UP!

**Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 9am to noon;** Join us as we

open some of the church building to welcome new programs and activities this Fall! See our Council President, Lynn Geisser if you have any questions or contact Pastor Kathleen! Can’t wait to see you! Coffee, fruit, and other treats will be provided!

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY ST. PAUL'S!

St. Paul's will be celebrating its Anniversary AND

Stewardship Sunday on Sunday, November 14th!

We will have a guest preacher for Worship and

A celebration afterwards. Plan to join us!

More information to come.



## 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)



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.

### Marina Schepers

The St. Paul's Community of Faith supports Irene Holliman and her family in the loss of her mom, Marina Schepers.

A Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, October 17th at 1:00pm

### Albert Davey

It is with a sad heart but faithful trust that we write this note to let you know that Albert Davey, husband of Janet Davey, entered the Church Triumphant.

He died; transitioning to eternal life.

As of yet, there is no further information available. When we know more and are able to share the information, we will pass it along to the congregation. The St. Paul's Community of Faith supports Janet Davey and her family during this time.

### HOW ARE WE DOING WITH OUR STEWARDSHIP?

Stewardship means taking care of something that was given to you. Christian stewardship is rooted in God's gift of Jesus Christ to us, and we are entrusted to share this gift. Stewardship has to do with every aspect of living out our personal faith which includes lifestyle, gifts, finances, relationships and service.



This article will briefly focus on the finances of St. Paul's, an important part of stewardship. There are fifty-two envelopes in the box, one for each week of the year. There are two sections in each envelope: Current Fund and Benevolence Fund. These are the basic funds.

**Current Fund** - Covers salaries for pastor and staff, all utilities, building and property maintenance, office expenses, van maintenance, music program, online streaming of Sunday Services. How are we doing? This definitely has been an unusual year. We have been on site for worship since March 28 which means the offering plate has been available on the windowsills. Throughout this time of pandemic St. Paul's people have been faithful. Giving has been relatively steady. Some people use the plate while others mail in checks or use the online giving option.

**Benevolence Fund** - Covers contributions to the wider church (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod). This support means care of people during a disaster such as a hurricane, flood or fire, and malaria treatment in African countries. How are we doing? Benevolence giving is has also been steady with some increase over 2020 at this time (year to date).

**Other opportunities** - There are additional envelopes, such as Senior Ministries, Air Conditioning, Heat, Advent, Lent, and the Endowment Fund, to name a few.

You ask, "How do I figure this all out?" First, (no matter the pandemic, job losses, shut -downs, health concerns, etc.) give thanks for God's generosity. Secondly, ask the Lord to lead you as you focus on your offerings. Remember, that regular giving and consistency over time, not just the amount, is of utmost importance.

You are invited to write a check and mail it to the St. Paul's using your envelope or, if you do not have a box of envelopes, place it in a plain envelope and mail it in. Place your offering in the plate on the windowsill as you leave the sanctuary. You are also invited to give online. If you want assistance, call the office and Courtney will be happy to guide you through the process.

St. Paul's is thankful for the offerings that are given. We say thank you to God and to every giver! Thank you for your generosity!

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

# Announcements

## PRAYER CARD

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Prayer Focus Card  
September-November 2021

I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Psalm 116:1

**Sunday** Bow your ear, Lord, listen to the words of my heart.

**Monday** Lead me as I strive for peace and justice for all people.

**Tuesday** Show me your way in this troubled world.

**Wednesday** Help me to live out my faith everyday, with all I meet.

**Thursday** Be with me as I struggle with doubts and shortcomings.

**Friday** May I rest in you in the quiet of my prayers and meditation.

**Saturday** Thanks be to you, Lord, for your unconditional love.

## Birthdays

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OCTOBER 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.

## 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.