

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

Sept
2021

The Voice

Newsletter
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Message from our Pastor

Beloveds in Christ,

In his book, "Ask, Thank, Tell," author Charles Lane tells us that "the world isn't about the survival of the fittest. God is not only the creator of all that is, God is the source of the wisdom and tenacity."

There is tremendous comfort in these words; because they tell us that the world doesn't actually rest on your shoulders. Our call is to listen for God, to be present enough at some point in every day to be thankful to God, to ask for what we need, and then to listen. Perhaps for some of us that sounds fairly easy. The actual "doing" of prayer is not necessarily the tough part. The tough part is in making time to BE present to God in the midst of the busy struggle and joys of living.

Beloveds, look for God this month. The season of autumn is stepping slowly into our summer spirits. For many, the return to school flips a bit the schedules of warm summer days that provided a break from hectic mornings. Even if you are not entering into waiting classrooms – the season of Autumn brings with it visible and physically felt changes.and with them new opportunities to spy the blessings of creation.

Including the blessings of community and care. This month, St. Paul's will host a Harvest Giveaway of produce and non-perishables, school supplies, and food for growing minds and hearts. There will be some games and a whole lot of fellowship. We will also be participating in the ELCA Church Wide program God Work Our

Hands, as we gather in the Roots Garden at Fisher Park – getting it ready for the colder months. We will have a guest speaker in worship and we will host the North-east/West Cluster of Congregations for voting on a new Dean. Our Faith Formation opportunities for chil

dren are becoming real as we finish VBS and look to a new year. These are just some of the things happening in your faith community. Many more conversations are being started and many more invitations will be coming, and the blessings of them all lay in the reminder that we read above. We get to care for this amazing creation of earth and humanity that God provided, remembering that God is the source of wisdom and tenacity – wealth and abundance.

The air is becoming cooler, the sky looks a little different. We sense the changes of creation and the activity of our Creator...let's take the time to be present to God in the midst of the doing of our life -- to Ask God for how we can care for the world and its humanity – to Thank God for the opportunity to do so -- and Tell the world about a God that loves us tremendously; sending us Jesus to live among us to teach and to be an example of that love.

Go in the blessings of Christ.

~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.

St. Paul's Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be Monday, September 13th at 7:30pm. The meeting will take place on zoom. Please have your reports in to Courtney no later than Wednesday evening, September 8th. 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.

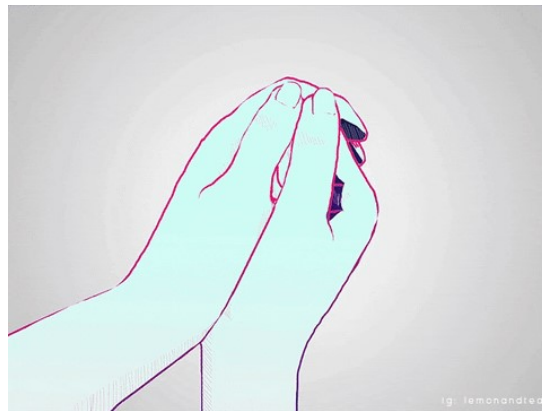


Thank You For Your Support!

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



St. Paul's and Liberty Lutheran are teaming up to offer a wonderful training opportunity to bring the love of Christ in the Bread and Wine of the Eucharist to people of our congregation who have not been able to get to church. We will gather for a time of fellowship and learning on Saturday, November 6th here at St. Paul's beginning at 9:00 am and ending around 4:00. Let's see where God leads us as we pray and look to share the love and comfort of Christ.



Sunday, September 12th from 12pm to 3pm we will participate in the ELCA's *God's Work Our Hands* program. We will be heading up to the Roots Garden in Fisher Park. A sign-up sheet is at the table in the Narthex.

Please Note...

The Church building is beginning to open up slowly. We have welcomed back the AA Group to meet. 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.

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. More information to follow.

Ken Hayes

A Memorial Service of Life will be held for Ken Hayes on Tuesday, September 7th at 2 pm on September 7th.

The service will be held at Spring House Estates

VISION AND MISSION MINISTRIES

Rev. Mark Bethala and his family are well known to St. Paul's. Prior to the pandemic, St. Paul's supported Mark's Vision and Mission Ministries in India with an annual gift composed of individual donations from St. Paul's members. This year we want to renew this support. Vision and Mission Ministries provides housing, education and job training especially for children who are living on the streets and women who are victims of the sex trade. The pandemic adds to medical needs to the existing long list of needs. People with little or no regular medical care are very vulnerable to COVID-19 and directly need health education, the vaccine and treatment for the virus. Pastor Bethala will be with us on September 12 to give us updated information on his work. We will be receiving a basket offering on that day.



Please be as generous as possible with your check or cash. You may also give online or mail in a check with Vision and Mission.

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

Vinolia Bethala– 17th

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL SEPTEMBER 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.