



Epistle

February 2021

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

19 WEST PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE , WALKERSVILLE, MD 21793

WWW.SAINTPAULSLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG , 301-845-4600

Mark Your Calendar

- 2.2 Congregational Life 7pm
- 2.7 Soup-er Bowl Sunday
- 2.8 Finance Committee 7pm
- 2.9 Council 7pm
- 2.14 Valentines Day
- 2.17 **Ash Wednesday**
- 2.22 Worship & Arts 7pm
- 2.23 Executive Council 7pm

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday service will be held at 7pm on February 17th in the Nave. The service will include in the Imposition of Ashes. As with all our activities at St. Paul's, we have the safety of all as a top priority, ashes will be held in an individual communion cup and available as you arrive for service. During the service instead of coming forward to receive the sign of the cross in ashes you will remain in your seat and share that with those in your party, giving them to each other or yourself. The service will still be available for virtual participation via Facebook Live at 7pm. If you wish to receive ashes, we are making those available in a drive through at the church at 5pm. Please enter the driveway on Fulton Ave and carry on through the drive to the back of the church to Pastor Phil and then exit onto Pennsylvania Avenue. These ashes will also be in individual cups for each person. A little behind the scenes of ashes preparation. Last year's palms are burned and those are the ashes used for the service, they will be mixed with some oil and placed into small plastic communion cups, ready for safe distribution.

The theme of this Lenten season services will be "Places of the Passion." Each week will be a journey through the significant places of the final week of Jesus' life. Beginning with the City of Jerusalem on Ash Wednesday. We will follow in Jesus footsteps together, contemplating what happened at each place our Savior stood along the path of his Passion for our sake. Join us on this Lenten journey in person or virtually every Wednesday evening at 7pm beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 17th and carrying through Holy Week, March 31st.

Pastor's Peace

"The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet *you* with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing." Zephaniah 3:17

Our journey into the Lenten season will begin on February 17, 2021 and will look a little different from years past. Unfortunately, because of current circumstances with the pandemic, we will not continue in the tradition of St. Paul's and meet in the Parish Hall for soup and fellowship before we have our worship service. We will be meeting in the sanctuary at 7pm, as well as utilizing our technology to broadcast the service live via Face Book. We will be journeying with Jesus through his last week of ministry in human form utilizing a program entitled "Places of the Passion." An intro to the program informs us that "in this worship series for Lent, we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, contemplating what happened at each place our Savior stood along the path of his Passion for our sake. Written by theology professor Reed Lessing, each service explores the meaning, history and spiritual inspiration associated with the location highlighted. Parishioners will learn things they may not have known before as they grow to understand more deeply the hard road our Lord took that the way to heaven might be open to us." We will also post the service to the St. Paul's YouTube channel should you not be able to join us at the appointed time. I pray that you will join us as we take part and share in Christ's journey to the Cross and the Resurrection.

Our Gathered at the Table series, which grew out of our Lenten Worship last year, continues to grow and reach a variety of people from our congregation and across the country. We have begun our study into the Social Statements of the ELCA in which we seek discernment through "preaching, teaching, the sacraments, Scripture, and mutual conversation and consolation." Thus far, we have shared an overview of the process for developing these guiding principles in our homes, church, and our communities. Additionally, we spent three weeks discussing "The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective" which has given us a foundation in which to engage in difficult conversations in the hope of furthering our understanding of the diversity in our world. You are invited to join us in person or via Face Book live each Thursday at noon as we are welcoming your interaction, perspectives, and prayerful thoughts in furthering our responsibility to "defend human rights and to work for freedom, justice, peace, environmental well-being, and good order in public life." Why do we do this? As Martin Luther put it, "As love and support are given you, you in turn must render love and support to Christ in his needy ones."

Additionally, we will be starting up adult Sunday School again on February 7, 2021 following worship where we take a deeper look into the Scripture Readings for each particular Sunday. We meet in the Parish Hall and seek to garner a greater understanding of the Good News. The study is in-person only at this time.

There are many ways for you to be a part of church and I invite you to explore them with us.

Peace
Email: pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org

Pastor Phil
Cell phone: 202-497-0584

*"You crown the year
with Your goodness,
And Your paths drip
with abundance."
Psalm 65:1*



Partnering with the Red Cross St. Paul's is holding a Blood Drive

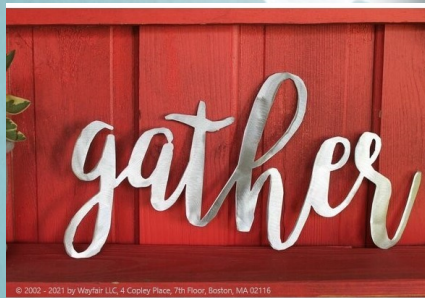
On Friday, February 12th from 10:30am to 4pm in the Parish Hall we are holding our first Blood Drive of the year. The Red Cross has asked us to be a regular partner and host blood drives, we have committed to holding 4 a year with our first being Feb 12th. If you are able to help by donating, please visit our website and click on the home page banner and it will take you to the Red Cross website to sign up for an appointment. If you can volunteer the day of the drive to check in donors, please contact the office to sign up for a time. Thank you so much for continuing to support this vital service to our community.

Overview of Gathered at the Table

Gathered at the Table continues with a weekly discussion group livestreaming on Facebook, Thursdays at Noon. We are venturing through the ELCA's Social Statements. Check out the Resources page on our website for links to the statements themselves.

If you miss a week, the videos will remain on our Facebook page under the videos section, please watch at your convenience. It is important that the members of St. Paul's understand and have the opportunity to discuss safely the social statements of our church. If you would like to pose a question and rather do that in an anonymous way, please email them to the Pastor. They can be addressed without using your name. Your participation is welcome and vital to our discussions.

Email to pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org



February Birthdays

Feb. 1 st	Doris Alexander Jeanne Smith
Feb. 4 th	Pauline Flanagan
Feb. 9 th	Mary Ann Ferguson
Feb. 10 th	Christianna Kutz
Feb. 11 th	Dianne Fauble
Feb. 13 th	Trish Lutz
Feb. 14 th	Tammy Snurr
Feb. 16 th	Betsy Galliher
Feb. 18 th	Dee Dee Kopp
Feb. 20 th	David Burris Gabrielle Zeller
Feb. 22 nd	Nancy Cochran
Feb. 23 rd	Debra Plowman Johanna Waters
Feb. 25 th	Kathleen Edwards
Feb. 26 th	Sam Purswell Cynthia Zeller
Feb. 28 th	Cameron Chesnik

"You crown the year with Your goodness, And Your paths drip with abundance." Psalm 65:1



*"Therefore, if anyone
is in Christ, he is a new
creation; old things
have passed away;
behold, all things have
become new."*

2 Corinthians 5:17

CARE PACKAGES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS AND MILITARY

This year we will be sending out these packages in March with a St. Patrick's Day theme. If you have a student away from home or a member of the military that you would like a package sent to please get the full address to Belinda by February 28th. If you would like to contribute items for the packages, please keep in mind that the items should be small and best if they were consumables, snacks, gum, drink mix, tissues, etc. We are going with a green or yellow theme. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Belinda at

youthandfamily@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org.



St. Paul's is collecting cans of soup for the GVCS Food Bank on **Sunday, February 7th- SOUP-ER Bowl Sunday!** You can bring your donations to service or drop them off in the collection bin at the front of the church any time that day. Our goal is 100 cans of soup, be the MVP of the day and help us reach our goal!



Mardi Gras Game Night/Potluck Dinner is tentatively scheduled for February 13 at 5:00. Updates will be sent as the need arises.

Thank You
FOR
GIVING
...
GENEROUSLY

A "Thank you" to all who donated the \$267 to the Turkey Tree.