



Praise & Patter – February 2021

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

24 E. Baltimore St. + PO Box 148 + Funkstown, MD 21734 + 301.791.1738
office@stpaulsfunkstown.org www.stpaulsfunkstownmd.org

Recently, I have been feeling somewhat distracted and tired. I've also noticed that in our home we seem to be somewhat disconnected and there is a general sense of weariness. We are busy every day and going through the motions of life, but we don't seem to be enjoying life as much as we normally do. It could be the fact that we have been cooped up at home for nine months. Or, that we are frustrated with our government leaders, who don't seem to be able to have a civil conversation or work together on substantive business. Or, the constant reminder from the media that we are divided as a nation. (One of the news apps has a red title bar that reads says "America in Crisis.")

All of this may be true, and yet, I wonder if it is a symptom of a different problem? Am I the only one feeling this way? Is our family the only one experiencing this? Or, is it a more widespread problem?

Last week, I received an email that included a link to an article by Kevin DeYoung entitled "Three Dangers of Busyness." You can read the complete article at <https://www.crossway.org/articles/3-dangers-of-busyness/>. DeYoung begins by saying: "As hectic and frustrating as modern life can be, the biggest dangers are not material or temporal inconveniences ... the most serious threats are spiritual. When we are crazy busy, we put our souls at risk." What are the three dangers of busyness?

1. Busyness can ruin our joy. Busyness is like sin: kill it, or it will be killing you. Most of us fall into a predictable pattern. We start to get overwhelmed by one or two big projects. Then we feel crushed by the daily grind. Then we despair of ever feeling at peace again and swear that something has to change. Then two weeks later life is more bearable, and we forget about our oath until the cycle starts all over again. What we don't realize is that all the while we've been a joyless wretch, snapping like a turtle and as personally engaging as a cat. When busyness goes after joy, it goes after everyone's joy.

2. Busyness can rob our hearts. John Calvin says the human heart is "a thick forest of thorns." Jesus names two in particular. The first he labels "the cares of the world" (Mark 4:19). A second thorn is related to the first. Jesus says the work of the Word is swallowed up by the desire for other things. As much as we must pray against the Devil and pray for the persecuted church, in Jesus's thinking the greater threat to the gospel is sheer exhaustion. The seed of God's Word won't grow to fruitfulness without pruning for rest, quiet, and calm.

3. Busyness can cover up the rot in our souls. The hectic pace of life can make us physically and spiritually sick. The presence of extreme busyness in our lives may point to deeper problems—a pervasive people-pleasing, a restless ambition, a malaise of meaninglessness.

Busyness does not mean you are a faithful or fruitful Christian. It only means you are busy, just like everyone else. And like everyone else, your joy, your heart, and your soul are in danger. We need the Word of God to set us free. We need biblical wisdom to set us straight. What we need is the Great Physician to heal our over-scheduled souls. If only we could make time for an appointment.

As we journey through 2021, I encourage you to make time for an appointment with God – daily, weekly – just do it sometime. I'm going to try some new ways to connect with God, too. We are only beginning this new year and there is still time to make adjustments. Perhaps, we all need some time alone with God to soothe our weary souls and to find joy in His presence.

Pastor Lee

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP at 9:00 AM EACH SUNDAY!

Please visit our website – www.stpaulsfunkstownmd.org. There is a link on the home page to “COVID-19 Resources.” There, you can find a copy of the “health information form” and our complete “Return to Worship” guidelines.

In-Person – Please make a reservation each week by Friday at 10:00 AM. You can call (301.791.1738) or email (info@stpaulsfunkstownmd.org). Also, remember to bring your completed health information form.

+ Masks must be worn at all times when in the building. If you can't wear a mask, please stay home and enjoy Facebook Live or join by conference call.

+ There will be no childcare.

Facebook Live – www.facebook.com/stpaulsfunkstown

Conference Call – Dial in number: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 581-113-3494#

Tithes and Offerings

Dear Jesus, allow us the grace to make the season of Lent an offering to you. Help us to repent and turn from our sin. Grant us humility to turn more faithfully toward you. Guide us to pick up our cross daily and follow where you lead. Inspire our heart to seek your will every day, as we place our hope and trust in Jesus. Amen.

THANK YOU for your faithful & generous giving, which helps us to share the good news of Jesus. Please visit our website www.stpaulsfunkstownmd.org and click GIVE to learn about electronic giving options. You can also mail your offerings to the church or drop them off during office hours, which are 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon.

Offerings received in December \$31,125.67

Expenses paid in December \$22,644.80

Principal paid on debt: \$2,135.43

Faith Formation

Crossways Bible Study meets on Tuesdays at 10:00 AM -- in person and by telephone.

Our Daily Bread booklets for December January, February are available for pick up.



Our prayers are with:

Prayer Ministry: Remember these brothers and sisters in Christ in your daily prayers:

February 7 Steven Richardson; Tamara Ridenour, Susan Riley, Jill, Kaitlyn & Matthew Ritter; Jim, Alice, Brandon & Jenna Roberts; Mayetta Roby; Richard Roby; Robert, Kimberly & Aaron Rodgers, Jr.; Andrew, Natasha & Brantley Rodgers; Marie Royce; Miranda Sage; and Samuel & Michelle Sarvey

February 14 Donna & Valerie Schmidt; Eric, Stephanie & Douglas Schminkey; Robin Schneider; Marsha, Brody, Samantha Secrest, Peg Shank; Stephanie, Connor & Cara Shank; Cory Shank; Tucker, Amanda, Timmy and Brandon Shaw; Dick Shipley

February 21 Virginia Simon; Anna Jean Smith; Jeannette Smith; Diana Smith; Jennifer Smith; David, Amanda, Rachel & Laura Smith; Lynn & Linda Spalding

February 28 Sarah Stahl; Richard Stallings, Betty Lou Stoup; Sarah Jane Sullivan; and Whitney & Rachel Sylvester

February Birthdays

3	Robin Brown	15	Jeff Doarnberger	21	Tim Johnston David Wolford
7	Brenda Wing	16	Peggy Shank Valerie Schmidt	23	Karen Luther
8	Brantley Rodgers	18	Shirley Gardner Heather McCleaf	24	Elizabeth Reeser Luke Hebb
9	Karen Pierce Donna Unger	19	Robert Wilson Theresa Collins	22	Samuel Sarvey
11	Dick Shipley*			27	Victoria Baker
11	Hal Brandenburg			29	Harriet Pryor*
14	Lauren Horan Kendra Forcino	20	William Luther, III		

***=80 years and over**

February Anniversaries

11 Clayton & Susan Unger 24 Greg & Pamela Young

Winter Cancellations

If it is necessary to cancel a Sunday worship service or any other church activity due to inclement weather, we will announce the cancellation on radio stations, WARK, WHAG, WJEJ, on television station WDVM, on our website and on the answering machine at the church office. While every effort will be made to provide as much advance notice as possible, decisions sometimes cannot be made until the last minute. During the week, if Washington County Schools dismiss early or are closed due to inclement weather, St. Paul's will also cancel activities on those days. Please always use your best judgment when determining if it is safe for you to travel to attend a scheduled event.

2021 Offering Envelopes

St. Paul's first started using an "envelope system" for weekly offerings in 1888. 2021 envelopes are available in Fellowship Hall. So that we can track our voting members, all confirmed members of St. Paul's receive an assigned envelope (couples receive one box of envelopes). Please pick up your box of 2021 envelopes and begin using them after January 1, 2021. PLEASE NOTE: It is very likely that your offering envelope number has changed for 2021. Please note the new envelope number when you pick up your offering envelopes.

Newsletter News

The deadline to receive information for the March newsletter is NOON on February 16th. Your meeting this deadline ensures we can publish the March Newsletter by the end of February.

Signup Charts: The Signup charts for 2021 Altar Flowers, Eternal Light and Communion Elements are posted on the bulletin board. Altar Flowers are \$60.00 for both vases or \$30.00 for one. Please indicate if you are purchasing one or both. The Eternal Light and Communion Elements are \$10.00 per week.

Seeking support for COVID nursing staff at Meritus

When the pandemic first started, Meritus hospital staff received much support and kindness from our community. Now COVID numbers are higher than ever in the community as well as in our hospital. If you are interested in providing meals to the nursing staff during these challenging times you can [donate](#) directly to the Help Our Heroes Fund or, if you wish to purchase meals (by providing funds or thorough a local restaurant), please contact Amanda Shaw to coordinate the donation. She can be reached at Amanda.shaw@meritushealth.com or call 301-790-8827. Unfortunately, Meritus cannot accept any homemade items. For more information, please contact Amanda or Jeanette Brill at Jeanette.Brill@meritushealth.com or call 301-790-8296



2021 Easter Flower Fund

It is our tradition, members of the congregation are given the opportunity to purchase Easter flowers or to make a monetary donation towards the cost of the sanctuary decorations for Easter. Those who choose to *purchase* Easter flowers are reminded the flowers are *yours to take home* on Easter Sunday.

If you wish to participate, please complete this form.

The cost of the Lily is \$10.00 each.

A Easter Gift Please Print Clearly)

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Env. #: _____

I wish to purchase _____ (number of flowers), and I will take the flowers home on Easter Sunday following either service. Plants will be labeled with your name.

I wish to make a DONATION (\$6.00 minimum) of \$_____ toward the cost of decorations. I am **NOT** taking the flowers home.

Questions: Please contact Judy Bowers.

Deadline for orders is Sunday February 28th.

Return this form, along with payment or donation, either to an usher by putting it in the offering plate, dropping it off to the church office or by mailing it to:

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Po. O. Box 148
Funkstown, MD 21734**

2021 LENTEN SCHEDULE

Our journey through the Season of Lent will look a little different. We pray that it will be a meaningful time to reflect upon the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, even as we navigate the continuing presence of COVID-19 in our lives. Our schedule is as follows:

- Ash Wednesday, February 17, one service at 7:00 PM (in-person and online)
- Wednesdays in Lent – recorded services made available each week.
- Maundy Thursday, April 1, one service at 7:00 PM (in-person and online)
- Good Friday, April 2, one service at 3:00 PM (in-person and online)
- Easter Sunday, April 4, one service at 9:00 AM (in-person and online)

Church Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Church Secretary: Carol Ann Rossman

Pastor: Lee Brumback + 540.335.1710 + prlee@stpaulsfunkstownmd.org

Director of Music: Cara Price

Council President: Travis Fouche 301.730.8926