



Praise & Patter – April 2021

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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“Do not fear, for I am with you. Do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.” Isaiah 41:10

I used this scripture passage to begin my newsletter article in April 2020. At the time, the fear of COVID-19 was increasing at an alarming rate. There was no vaccine and scientists were scrambling to figure out how the virus was being spread. From coast to coast: large gatherings and events were canceled; university's were holding classes online and public schools were closed; sports teams were not playing; vacations were canceled; restaurants were closed except for pick up or delivery; and family gatherings to celebrate birthdays were postponed indefinitely. On top of that, it was difficult to find toilet paper, hand soap, hand sanitizer, and other grocery items.

As I reflect upon the past year, I am amazed at how far we have come. Restaurants are open for in-person dining, sports events are taking place, many schools are providing in-person classes, and we are gathering in smaller groups and as families to celebrate milestones in life. Because of Operation Warp Speed, we now have an abundance of testing supplies and three vaccines available for public distribution. And, on March 9, Governor Hogan announced that capacity limits are repealed, except for some larger venues.

Yes, I know. Many of us wish that a return to normal life would come more quickly. We long for the days when we do not have to wear a mask and can greet each other with a handshake or a hug. And, we will get there ... in time.

In some ways, the pandemic has felt like a Lenten journey that has gone on far longer than forty days. We long to celebrate the resurrection, to put away the fasting and sacrifice and rejoice in new life. And we are, in small and steady ways returning to life. We have come a long way together and we can rejoice in that.

As a church, the Season of Lent is coming to a close as we approach Holy Week and Easter. I invite you to join us on Maundy Thursday at 7:00 PM and Good Friday at 3:00 PM for in person worship. Both services will be broadcast online and through teleconference. On Easter morning, we gather at 9:00 AM to celebrate the resurrection surrounded by beautiful lilies, brightly lit candles, and uplifting music. While it is too soon to take off our masks and sing, we can celebrate the sights and smells that proclaim JOY and HOPE. We will gather to hear the word of God, to pray, and to share the bread and wine of Holy Communion.

As the church of Jesus Christ, we are on this journey together and will continue to trust in God's providence over our lives. I am grateful for the talented and committed people in this congregation who navigated all kinds of technical difficulties in order to provide worship via live stream and conference call in the past year. And, we will continue to provide online options even as the number of in person attendees grows.

God is present and active in our midst. Jesus has died and is risen. The Holy Spirit is among us and leading us into the future.

Pastor Lee

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

In-Person – No reservations or health forms required.

+ 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.

Facebook Live – www.facebook.com/stpaulsfunkstown

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

Meeting ID: 581-113-3494#

Tithes and Offerings

Heavenly Father, only you can satisfy our every desire and need. Your word says that we are to honor to you with the first fruits of our wealth. Accept our tithes and offerings as a gift of worship to you. Multiply what we give for the effective growth of your kingdom. May Christ dwell in our hearts through faith so that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may have the strength to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. May we be filled with all the fullness of God. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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 February \$18,502.82

Expenses paid in February \$21,057.68

Principal paid on debt: \$2,046.20

Faith Formation

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

Our Daily Bread booklets for March, April, May are available for pick up.



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

- April 4 Rebecca, Andrew Wolford; David Wolford, Marlina Wolford, Greg & Pam Young; and Derk Young-Davis
- April 11 Carmela Anjos, Sara Jane Baker, Audrey Baker, Fred and Victoria Baker, Natalie Billman, Carol Biser
- April 18 George Bowden, Roger and Judy Bowers; Rodger and Andrea Bowers; Hal and Linda Brandenburg, Richard and Elaine Brandenburg; Whitney, Ben, Mason and Harper Breakall, Gene & Victoria Breeden, Madge Brown
- April 25 Pastor Lee, Tori, Timothy and Matthew Brumback, Helen Bussard; Laura Cavey, Gerald Clark, Betty Cline; Delroy & Rose Cline, Ed and Jean Clopper; Chris, Adam and James Collins;

April Birthdays

3	Andrew Wolford	12	Bill Renner* Teresa Jacobs	20	Spencer Nally
4	Carys Reichard Jennifer Smith Ravenna Kline*	13	Janet Moats Scott Hebb	21	Rose Cline
5	Ed Clopper	14	Richard Nigh*	22	Cameron Jacobs
11	Jeanne Doney Katlyn Ritter	18	Karen Lighter	24	James Prather
				25	Harold James*
				30	Jackie Nally

*=80 years and over

April Anniversaries

7	Travis & Kelly Kable	19	Alex & Courtney Macquire	19	David & Jean Unger
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Newsletter News

The deadline to receive information for the May newsletter is NOON on April 20th. Your meeting this deadline ensures we can publish the May Newsletter by the end of April.

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.

2021 Holy 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)

SOUP & SANDWICH SALE: Carry out only. Saturday, April 10, 2021 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm (or when sold out) in the Fellowship Hall. Soups, available by the quart, are Cheesy Potato, Chicken Corn, Vegetable Beef and Ham & Bean. Sandwiches are Turkey & Cheese, Hot Dog and Chicken Salad. Baked goods will also be available for sale.

Up Coming Events:

April 13 – Council Meeting
April 14 – Funkstown Lions Meeting
April 20 – Newsletter Deadline

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

