



## *Praise & Patter – July/August 2021*

### **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

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In his book "Living Lutheran," Dave Daubert shares some insights about churches that are declining and those that are growing. He begins by sharing some observations, which sound very similar to my experience of growing up in the church.

"As the church, we taught people to be good citizens, and the world sent us people and kept us going" (p. 10). Some call this the "the church at the center" model. The church enjoyed a certain power of being respected and needed. Most businesses were closed on Sundays, or open very limited hours. "In this kind of 'you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours world' the church blessed the culture with a sense of Godliness and righteousness. In return, the culture sent people in record numbers to attend and support the church. Even if parents didn't attend church, they brought their children to Sunday school because it was the right thing to do... 'Normal' people went to church" (p. 11).

The world is a different place today. There are fewer kids connecting with the ministry of our churches, and many parents are not interested in whether their kids have a foundation in faith or not. "In fact, there is little in today's culture to suggest that 'good people' go to church and Sunday school" (p. 12).

"The church that once lived at the 'center of culture' is now moving more and more to the edges. It is now abnormal to go to church" (p. 13). After all, there are so many other activities to take the place of church and Sunday school – sleep, mowing the lawn, soccer, golf, eating out, shopping, surfing the Internet, social media, streaming videos, etc. There are some cities where zoning boards are refusing a permit to build a church building because they would rather have a business that pays property taxes. "The church is no longer seen as an asset but a liability" (p. 13).

There is hope for renewal. A few years ago, there was a study that revealed the following: "declining and growing churches were doing the same things" – getting a better sign, adding a contemporary worship service, sharing posts on social media, providing online worship, etc. What was the difference between those who were growing and those who were shrinking?

Churches that remain vibrant and growing are always clear about two things:

**First**, they are clear about their purpose and vision for ministry. They have a clear understanding about what God is doing and how they can participate. And, this purpose and vision is known and shared by the members and the pastor.

**Second**, they are open to change. "We've never done it that way before" is replaced with, "What do we need to do to be effective for God?"

We do have a challenge. There are many churches filled with people who "aren't really sure what difference it makes to be a Christian, even in their own lives" (p. 16). Some churches are struggling with attendance and budgets, and the focus has become survival. Without a clear purpose, many finance committees simply get together at budget time and say: "How much money can we cut from the budget this year?"

"Evangelism that is focused on recruiting members for a church doesn't work" (p. 16). Why? Because God isn't interested in a bigger church. God desires a transformed world. The path to new life comes when congregations follow a clear purpose and vision that connects people to what God is already doing in the world. A few churches are willing to try something new if it will keep them from closing; however, change is often seen as a burden rather than bringing a sense of surprise or adventure.

Over the summer, I invite you to join me in prayer to God about two things: 1) What is the purpose and vision for St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Funkstown? 2) What are we willing to change in order to connect people to God?

The church cannot continue to speak the same religious language to a popular culture that has stopped listening to us. We must find new words and new ways to share the good news of Jesus. We need God's help and direction to show us a clear purpose and to open our hearts for necessary change.

*Pastor Lee*

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

**In-Person** – Masks will no longer be required in our building. This change is in response to the updated guidelines from the CDC that "fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing," and Governor Hogan's announcement that "masks and face coverings are no longer required indoors or outdoors for those who have been fully vaccinated in the State of Maryland." For those who wish to continue to wear masks, please do so. We want everyone to feel as comfortable and safe as possible. We understand that the comfort levels of each family may be different. Please keep this in mind as you enter the building and respect the decisions of others regarding masks and social distancing.

**Live Stream** – [www.stpaulsfunkstownmd.org](http://www.stpaulsfunkstownmd.org)

**Facebook Live** – [www.facebook.com/stpaulsfunkstown](http://www.facebook.com/stpaulsfunkstown)

**Conference Call** – Dial in number: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 581-113-3494#

### **Tithes and Offerings**

Heavenly Father, we give our tithes and offerings to you. Bless and use them to accomplish your will through this church. We ask that every amount will be invested in the furthering of your work. Grant wisdom to those who will handle these funds so that they may make good, productive, and wise use of our tithes and offerings. Direct our ministry spending towards spreading the gospel and helping our children toward spiritual growth and service. And bless the works of our hands. 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](http://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 May \$23,920.51

Expenses paid in May \$18,442.72

Principal paid on debt: \$2,046.20

### **Faith Formation**

We will take a break for the summer months (June, July and August) and will resume in September.

### **Prayer Ministry**

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

- July 4 Nancy James; David & Patricia Johnston; Tim Johnston; Travis & Kelly, Emmett, Hope Kable, Nicholas & Ethan Keller,
- July 11 Wilbur & Barbara King, Sr.; Tammy King; Reatha Kline; Ravenna Kline; Richard A. & Faith Kline; Robert and Penny Kline; Lindsay Kline; Wesley Kline;
- July 18 Brenna Lang; Stephanie Leonard, Gracie Leonard and Kali Myers, Lilah Myers; Andy, Karen, Rachel and Aaron Lighter; Susan Logan; Cindy Lucas,
- July 25 William Luther, III; Jackie Lyles, Courtney, Alex, Jack & Hazel Maguire, Heather McCleaf; Ronald & Dru McNamee; Kristen McNamee; Dan & Charlotte Miller and David Miller
- August 1 Terry Miller; Janet Moats; Anneliese Moat; Mary Moats; Robert, Jeanna, Kaiden, & Kendyl Moats,
- August 8 Bill & Judy Morningstar; Todd Morningstar; Ted, Marianne, Joshua, Heather, Aaron, Ryan, Megan, Trey, & Devin Morningstar, Jr.; Keldra Morningstar and Zachary Morningstar
- August 15 Russell Moseley; Christie Moser; Charles Mowen; James Mowen; Barbara Mumma; Christopher Mumma; Deborah Myers; William & Mary Myers; Larry, Jackie & Logan Nally; Spencer Nally;
- August 22 Linda Nelson; Jack & Nancy Newkirk; Anne Dee Nichels, Richard Nigh; Robert Nigh; Brian, Tara, Megan & Lindsay Oberholzer; Donald & Cheryl Obitts; Bryan Obitts, Michael & Karen Pierce;

August 29 Jeff, Sharon, Julie & Chloe Poffenberger; Jane Potts, Roger Powers; Nelda Prather; James & Bradley Prather; Brianna Price, Jackson Price, Harriet Pryor; Chris, Stacey, Landen and Rylei Purnell; Ashley Reedy, Doris Reel;

### Sharing and Caring

Congratulations to Hayden Hetzer who graduated from Tech High.

Congratulations to Emma & Hanna Weikert who graduated from South Hagerstown High School, granddaughters of Carol Eavey.

### Note of Appreciation

Regarding the recent and unexpected passing of Gary Naugle and the memorial service on May 22, 2021, I would like to express my heartfelt "thank you" to Pastor Lee for his visits, prayers and guidance during this very sad time of bereavement. My grateful thanks also to Charlotte and Dan Miller and their crew for all the planning and execution of the wonderful service of food and refreshments as well as Cara for the inspirational music, and to the Technology Team for providing stream of the memorial service. My deep thank you to Barry Warrenfeltz for his stirring singing, as well as Alex with that wonderful voice. Also thank you so much for all the lovely cards, prayers, and hugs from my church family. Your support means so much to me in this time of sorrow. Thank you also Carol Ann, for all the extra work you did. Thank you to all of you who care so much. Karin Engstrom.

### Newsletter News

The deadline to receive information for the September newsletter is NOON on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Your meeting this deadline ensures we can publish the September Newsletter by the end of August.

### Altar Guild Members

As the congregation continues to emerge from the pandemic the guild will be resuming its duties in July. At this time though we will not be returning to the monthly guild schedule. Volunteers are needed for Sundays in July and August, and the Labor Day weekend. The duties will be somewhat modified as communion is still being served differently than in the past. There is only a need for one volunteer per week, for now. If you are able to volunteer please contact Karen Lighter, 301-739-3583, or the church office. We will evaluate again in September. A special thank you goes to Judy Warrenfeltz who has taken care of the Altar since communion resumed in Advent. Thank you.

**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.

### July Birthdays

1	Stephanie Shank	15	Andrew Rodgers	25	Mike Pierce
6	Jonathan Volz	16	Linda Nelson	28	Jeff Poffenberger
7	Guy Greene*	17	Rylei Purnell	29	Ashley Reedy Catherine Harris*
8	George Bowden	20	Cindy Harbaugh	30	Nina Volz Barbara King*
12	Carol Eavey Hannah Sue Cramer	21	Audrey Baker		
		24	Tina Davis		

\*=80 years and over

### July Anniversaries

11 Jerry & Nina Volz

## August Birthdays

1	Vivian Hyde*	13	Taryn Crampton	23	Douglas Schminkey Kristen McNamee
2	Aaron Rodgers Steven Richardson	14	Brody Secrest	26	Tammy Whorten
3	Kameron Hollinger	15	Mary Ann Eckstine	27	Patrick Renner
8	Elaine Brandenburg*	16	Nancy Newkirk	28	Doris Reel* Krista Wilson
10	Liz Everhart*	17	Roger Bowers	29	Amanda Shaw
11	David Miller	19	Becky Wolford Michael Horan	30	Teresa Hutchens Jackson Price
12	Janice Greene* Sarah Sullivan	20	Anne Toms		

\*=80 years and over

## August Anniversaries

2	Jeff & Stephanie Shank	17	John & Virginia Simon	20	Pastor Lee & Tori Brumback
10	Chad & Marsha Secrest	18	Joseph & Jill Ritter, Jr.	22	Eric & Teresa Jacobs
13	Andy & Karen Lighter	19	Ed & Jean Clopper		

**Volunteers are Needed!** Are you or your family interested in a volunteer opportunity this summer? We are looking for volunteers to run the Snow Cone Stand at the 2021 Funkstown Park Day's. Date: July 17, 2021 Time: 11am-Dark. Please email [info@stpaulsfunkstownmd.org](mailto:info@stpaulsfunkstownmd.org) if you are interested in assisting! All proceeds support St. Paul's Youth & Children's Ministry.

## Scholarship Applications

Attention graduating high school seniors (and past recipients of the St. Paul's/Anna Warrenfeltz Memorial Scholarship) – Scholarship applications for the 2021-2022 academic year are available from the church office. All applications must be completed and returned to the church no later than August 8.

## Up Coming Events

August 10 – Council Meeting

August 17 – Newsletter Deadline

## MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS SCHEDULED FOR FALL

October 1-3, 2021 -- Heritage Hotel Lancaster in Lancaster, PA--Famous for its Robin Hood-inspired restaurant, Loxleys

October 15-17, 2021 -- Hyatt Place, Pittsburgh/Cranberry--spacious modern decor guestrooms with couches--an hour north of Pittsburgh

Simply go to: [www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org). For questions, please contact Fred & Julie Schamber, [fjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.net) or call: 724-325-3166.

**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](mailto:prlee@stpaulsfunkstownmd.org)

**Director of Music:** Cara Price

**Council President:** Travis Fouche 301.730.8926