

# Our Church

## St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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**May 2020**

Sunday Holy Eucharist 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
Holy Days as announced  
Education 9:15 a.m.

As I write this May issue of *Our Church* it is April 15. Not tax day this year as the deadline is extended. I think instead of the Apollo 13 space program to the days of my childhood. It was on April 15, 1970 that Apollo 13 made its reentry into the earth's gravitational influence. Things with the flight were not without difficulties which compounded the reentry process. Adjustments needed to be made in order to bring together all parties involved. Additional refinement was needed. Everyone involved with the mission wanted success. New configurations were needed to insure safety, to reunite astronauts and families, and share the mission with the nation.



It is our reentry into our communal life in Christ Jesus that I am thinking about, praying about, pondering, and discussing with the leadership of the congregation. The Coronavirus, COVID-19, has left us separated, some adrift in loneliness, others struggling to sustain the set back, but all of us a bit uncertain about how to proceed. The CDC and Governor have been providing information. But information doesn't always translate into a plan or course of action. What will our reentry to St. Paul's faith community be like? What should we expect?

We can expect that the Congregation Council and the Executive Committee has been focused on this and will rely on reports from the medical community to create a path forward. We will initially gather in smaller groups. This could include an added liturgy at 9:15AM. By so doing we would offer three worship opportunities which would permit us to manage safe distance, crowds, and traffic flow. With those who historically attended the 8:00 AM Sunday liturgy we would have 50-60 in attendance. If those who historically attended Sunday school would be willing to gather at a 9:15 AM liturgy, we would create a second group of 50-60 in attendance. And if those who historically attended the 10:30 AM liturgy would simply attend during their traditional time we would create a third group of 50-60 in attendance. Additionally we are giving thought to using every third pew as a way to keep distance (9 feet). With the new HVAC system installed during the renovation we can bring maximum exterior air into the church building for circulation (before construction existing air was recirculate). Offering basins would be provided at the doors so that the offering plates don't need to be passed. Worship bulletins would be placed on the pews in advance of the liturgy. We will continue to utilize either Matins (Morning Prayer) or Service of the Word until such a time as a true and honest celebration of the Lord's Supper is fitting, given the physical health of our community and a diminished risk of infection. It is not desirable to adopt a practice that is not in keeping with Lutheran theology and tradition.

As you can imagine, there are many things circling around a reentry plan for our congregation. We will provide you schedules and detailed plans as soon as possible through the website, emails and phone calls. Please be patience, prayerful, and understanding as we work to bring us all back together; insuring safety, reuniting our family, and sharing in our mission to *"Teach the world that God is love."*

In love and service to our Lord,

Pastor Reep

## Think, Love, Thank – The Easter Life

While reflecting and praying about our current situation in the midst of this global pandemic I came across an article *Christians and Pandemics through the Ages* by Matthew Payne. I found it to be very helpful for me as I work with our leadership discerning our next steps as a faith community. I share a portion of it with you now in this time. No it is not the history of Christians and pandemics. I share a section I think it is helpful for our Christian life together long after we pass through this current situation and these difficult days. In many ways the information will not be new to you, simply organized in a way that spoke to me.

### Three Christian Practices

By Matthew Payne PHD student Sydney Australia

I'm not a medical professional, so I won't pretend to be able to give advice of that sort. But as you seek out the best information on how to respond, read it through the lens of a Christian worldview. Specifically I want to suggest that Christians should weave three practices into everything we do: **Think, Love, Thank**. (Yes, I notice that this echoes the "eat-pray-love" thing. The difference is that these practices aren't selfishness-parading-as-spirituality; they come from the gospel).

#### 1. THINK

Fear and panic are enemies of clear-thinking. They are fueled by adrenaline, the flight-or-flight response, the instinct for self-preservation. They don't analyze or evaluate; they just react. In contrast, the gospel leads us to *think*, rather than give in to mindless reactivity. Grace leads us away from being ruled by our 'passions' and towards self-controlled, godly conduct (Titus 2:12; Romans 12:2). So breathe. Don't panic. Don't fear, for God is with us through difficulty (Isaiah 41:10; Psalms 46:7-11). Take a moment to remember how life really is: God is in charge. Jesus is on the throne. Salvation is won. Sin and death are defeated. History is being governed towards your ultimate good. Once you are thinking straight (that is, in accordance with the gospel), you are in a position to *respond* rather than to simply react.

#### 2. LOVE

Just as fear is the enemy of clear-thinking, it is also the enemy of love. '*Perfect love drives out fear*' (1 John 4:18). Panicked self-preservation is blind to the needs of others; it just grabs stuff. But once you are thinking straight you can look to the needs of your neighbors. See to it that their needs are fulfilled, not just your own. Often this will involve giving up our own desires for the sake of others' well-being. But that's exactly what Jesus did for us, and to a far greater extent!

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:*

*Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!*

Philippians 2:3-8

Ask God to make you alert about how you can love and serve others amidst today's unique challenges.

#### 3. THANK

The gospel gives us endless reasons to be thankful. We should regularly thank God for all that he has done for us in Christ, especially for him coming to bring us salvation. We should also regularly thank God for the good things we have in life more broadly. This is particularly important when times are difficult. We can still thank God for the daily gifts we have to enjoy: relationships, sunshine, leisure, and the modern comforts

of life. God is good to us daily in ways that we so often take for granted. While not the reason that we should be grateful toward God, the practice of gratitude does have a number of beneficial side-effects. Gratitude is enormously important for psychological health. It cultivates emotional well-being and a positive disposition towards life as a whole. It is an important part of facing difficulty well. Gratitude also helps put us in a good place to exercise clear thinking and love toward others (points 1&2). Gratitude focuses our attention on what we still have, which helps us think clearly about life. It reinforces that we are people who have received the benefits of God's love, and it empowers us to love others in return.

These three practices (*Think-Love-Thank*) mutually reinforce one another. They help us to be people who live godly lives as we wait for the glorious appearing of our savior, when he will triumph over sickness, sin, and death forever ([Titus 2:11-14](#)).



### *Our Deepest Sympathy*

It is with sadness that we announce the death of our sister Sylvia Little. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family and friends in this their time of mourning.

#### **Church Nursery—for when Services are resumed.**

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to staff the nursery. It is not too late if you haven't signed up. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me at (610) 223-2304 or [obie1986@hotmail.com](mailto:obie1986@hotmail.com). The nursery is for infants to pre-k aged children during the 10:30am service. The nursery will open 10 minutes prior to service and parents may opt to bring their child to the nursery before the service or after the children's sermon. Children must be picked up by their adult guardian prior to communion or immediately after the service. All sippy cups or bottles should be labeled with the child's name. A snack will be available unless nursery volunteers are told otherwise by the parent. For the protection of your child and other children, parents are requested not to bring a sick child to the nursery.



Sincerely, Carrie Oberholtzer



### **Easter Flowers**

Easter Flowers—For those who placed Easter Flower orders we are planning to have flowers in the church for Pentecost, May 31st. By making this adjustment we will honor your intention, fill the church with beautiful flowers on the Feast of Pentecost, and support our local florist and greenhouse.



Since our service schedule is uncertain, we are requesting those who have signed up for Altar Flowers whose date has been canceled to have their dedication moved to another date. We are planning to utilize the next available Sunday to honor requests. Thank you.

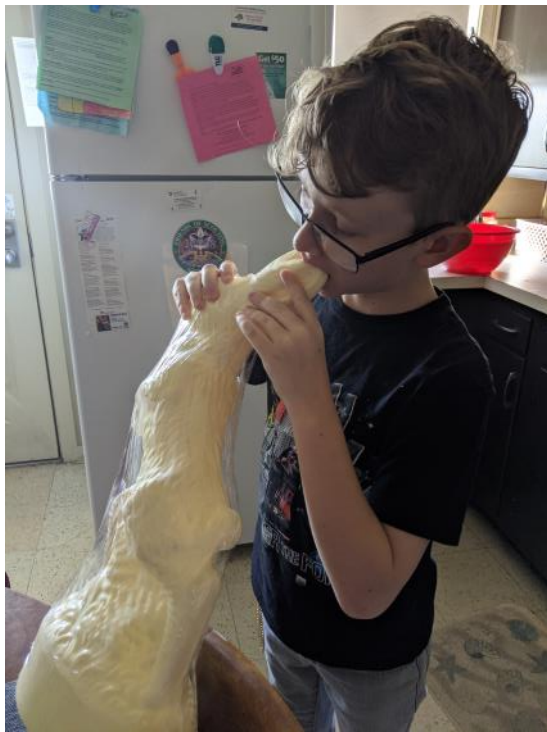
**Just what have you been up to during this time?**



Planting a small vegetable garden, coloring, sewing Mask's for self, Danny, and a few family members, playing fetch the ball with my puppy dog and staying safe!! Hope all is well with you and yours!! Pat Scarborough



Hi! The Dulls have been staying competitive with major board game nights (every night) playing games such as candy land, sorry, tensies and a whole lot more! We also are trying to learn how to fly a kite (Mary Poppins! Natalie still talks about Alan's play and loves to sing Lets Go Fly A Kite), having nerf wars, and helping mom and dad with yard work. Baby Mary is not interested in walking yet but she sure loves to eat and show off her new tricks like waving bye and playing roll the ball. We hope everyone is safe and healthy. The Dulls



Colin has been trying very hard to devour the chocolate bunny his Grandma sent him for Easter.—Denise Appel

Some of you may know that I am supposed to have shoulder replacement surgery. Well that's been postponed until whenever. Lucky for me I have a few home improvement projects on my Honey Do list. The most recent one is to finish the basement. Half of it is complete. And now that I have time, HONEY has been encouraging me to DO the rest of it, oh, and be sure I'm finished before my surgery gets rescheduled. So that's what I've been doing.

At one point I had to do some electrical work which involved a ceiling junction that was full of spaghetti. Now, I studied that box of wires for an hour before I started to disconnect it all. I wanted to add two ceiling lights and a switch, disconnect another ceiling light and make sure another switch didn't get disconnected from the lights in the completed half. And all of it goes through this one junction box!

I tested the new switch and lights and they worked. So I hooked it all back up and the junction box looked like the spaghetti I started with, but when I turned the power back on only one light at the top of the steps was on. Keep in mind that the power panel in my house is on the far side of the garage so, it's a little bit of a trip every time I turn the power on or off.

Back down the steps and up the ladder to the box of wires, I look for the problem. After 15 minutes I figure it out and it's back up the steps to turn the power off. Back down the steps and up the ladder I make the adjustments. I go back up the steps and turn on the power and it's back down the steps to see if it worked. This time the regular lights are back on but the new ones aren't. Another 15 minutes looking at wires and it's back up the steps to turn the power off, then back down the steps... well you get the idea. It took me an hour and a half to get all the lights working the way they were supposed to.

The problem wasn't crossed wires. I had everything wired correctly the first time. There was just one wire that had come loose inside a wire nut that I couldn't see until I decided to disconnect all the wires and start over. The upside of all this was that in starting over, the first wire nut I took off exposed the culprit! Whew!

When this job is finished HONEY wants new shelving in the storage room, and raised boxes in the back yard for her vegetables, and chair rail in the bedroom and....@#\$\$%^!!! —Richard Griffin



In addition to working on church office items, I've sewn and donated over 300 masks! - Patee Pizzirusso

***In our prayers we remember...***

*Gayle Guyton, Rodney Miller, Amanda, Jim Young, Penny Bailey, Eddie Turner, Sr., Jessica Ericson, Kristine Gross, Porter Stacey, the families and loved ones of Sylvia Little, and please keep all medical personnel and those in the military and in mission work in your daily prayers.*



Our Food Panty volunteers hard at work.  
Pre-packing food in the pantry.  
New helpers!  
Thank you for all you do!



## FALL PLANNING

A planning group has been brainstorming and “ZOOMING” to discuss Adult learning opportunities for next fall. Here is just a sampling of some of the possible topics....

Mpguso Sunday – learn about and celebrate our ministry in Tanzania

Bible Stories through African art

How can we be good stewards?

Go in peace, Serve the Lord...What does that mean? What are we doing?

What could we do?

5 Women in Jesus lineage.

**ZOOM BIBLE STUDY COMING SOON!** Watch for an email to come soon with information about a Zoom Bible Study offered by St. Paul's member Pastor Judy McKee. Thank you, Judy, for your willingness to help us come together during this time of being apart.



Lord Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages curing every disease and illness. At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their health and strength.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Good Lord, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

May those who have died from the virus rest in peace and rise in glory.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with prudence and charity for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve.

Stay with us, Lord, and grant us your peace.

Amen.



From the London Oratory

### From Jackson Elementary School

I just wanted to take a moment to show you that the hygiene kits that your church's youth put together last summer were distributed today. We have been handing the kits out during the year, but when school closed, we still had a number of them left. Jackson K-8 distributed lunches today and we thought it would be wonderful to hand out these supplies to anyone who needed them. The attached picture is of two of the building's staff. Thank you again for all that St. Paul's Lutheran Church does for the students and families at Jackson. It is truly appreciated. 😊



**Preschool Registration** for the 2020-21 school year is now open to the public. If you have further questions you can contact Deb Becker. The main phone number for the preschool is (717) 854-1996. You can also register online <http://www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com>.

## Summer Camp 2020

Camp Kirchenwald and Camp Nawakwa  
From Generation to Generation

*For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 100:5*



The Lutheran Camps offer a wide variety of things to strengthen faith and enrich our Christian Community; Worship, Daily Prayer, Making New Friends, Seeing Old Friends, Fun Activities, Adventure and Acts of Service. There are many different camps offered throughout the summer. From Grade K through Grade 11. You can choose your favorite camp week from Ultimate Sports, Jr. Classic, Kayak, Back Country Outpost, Arts and Crafts, Water Adventure, Trails and Treats and many, many more fun weeks.

Talk to Miss Kelly if you are interested in Camp Nawakwa or Camp Kirchenwald. Camp brochures will be available for you to look at.

## Cottage Meetings Slated for summer 2020

The cottage meeting format, meeting in member's homes, has worked well for us in the past. Our first gatherings helped Pastor Reep, who was at the time new to York and to St. Paul's, get a handle on the congregation and what to prioritize in ministry. The second set of meetings followed the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and identified a commonly shared path forward for the congregation. Those gatherings cemented the path leading to the renovation of facilities. The third set of gatherings was held in conjunction with the Capital Campaign process garnering financial support and showcasing the architectural vision and plans for St. Paul's. To that end we are planning gatherings in member's homes during the months of July and August. These meetings will focus on the many ideas posted on the glass wall as part of the 2019 Stewardship emphasis. The post it notes were the vehicle to help clarify vision for St. Paul's as we transition from the years of construction to years of living into the modernized facilities. Host families are being identified as we recognize the neighborhoods comprising current membership. If you are asked to host please give prayerful consideration to the request before offering a response. At this time we are planning for meetings to be held on Sunday afternoon, 3:00 PM and evening 7:00 PM on July 12, 19 & 26, August 2 & 9. Historically meetings have had about a dozen participants per gathering. If we see that we are in need of additional hosts we will adjust the planning. The summer months provide a more relaxed time of year, the option to gather out of doors, and the extended daylight hours for those who prefer not to drive after dark. The agenda for the gatherings currently rests with the Congregation Council. The idea is to create conversations that will bear fruit for our shared ministry at St. Paul's leading us forward in mission and ministry.



**Deadline for the  
June newsletter is  
May 15th**

**LET US KNOW**

Please remember to notify Pastor Reep of any life events (births, illness, deaths, etc.,) that you would like him to be aware of directly or through the office.



## Italian Wine Dinner Updates

Attention all church members! St. Paul's members have the first priority to purchase tickets for the Italian Harvest Wine Dinner prior to tickets going on sale to the community. There are a limited number of tickets, so please be sure to complete the ticket application form below and submitted it to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, **attention tickets**, 25 West Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

### TICKET ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please mail the ticket order form to:*

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Attention – Tickets  
25 West Springettsbury Avenue  
York, PA

*Questions may be directed to:*

[ann@anstadt.com](mailto:ann@anstadt.com)

ITALIAN HARVEST WINE DINNER  
*with* ART AND SILENT AUCTIONS

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
25 W. SPRINGETTSBURY AVE.  
**YORK, PA 17403**  
(717) 843-8155 (717) 843-0261 (Fax)

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Thank you to all who helped to get this newsletter  
out this month!

**STAFF**

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Organist, Choir Director	Victor Fields	<a href="mailto:vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a>
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Preschool Director	Deb Becker	<a href="mailto:director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com">director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com</a>



**Worship Schedule**

Sunday Holy Eucharist  
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
Education 9:15 a.m.