



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

## The Trumpet

May 2019

### What to do, Lutheran Easter People?

We who bear the overarching mantra that we are saved by God's gift of grace through faith, and not by works, may wonder what we should do after the news of the resurrection has spread among us. It is God's action; God's gift, and God's intent to forgive us despite our best efforts and failures.

Many of you spoke to me about being moved by the theological threads of holy week and Easter, uplifted by the soaring music and the sacred words of the resurrection. I was too.

So what happens when you receive good news, or have a good day? If you are like me, you feel upbeat, energized, ready to do something new, or better, or good in return. I can tell that my heart and my orientation to the world is more thankful.

God's gift is to place Christ's victory over death, our salvation from ourselves, at the center of the world view. Everything else is secondary. For us, we know that thankful hearts are strong. Thankful hearts can manage difficulties, conflicts, sadness, and loss without withering. Thankful hearts make us generous in our giving of time and specialized skills. Thankful hearts spur us to spread good things in the world so that others will see our good works and praise the creator and redeemer of the world.

As Easter people we are not asked to passively stand by while God's good news works on our neighbor. While we know that the good we do doesn't earn forgiveness or gracious allowances, what we do makes a difference in the world. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has used a motto "God's work; our hands" in order to help us focus on the mission that flows from being a people saved from all the forces that separate us from God.

So what are you going to do with your increasingly thankful heart? if you think about increasing your offerings of time or money or wisdom for the sake of the joyful response to God's grace, it will make the world better for you and those around you. Thankful hearts make more thankful hearts. Generosity begets generosity. Forgiveness makes space for more forgiveness. Respect creates mutuality and dignity.

The feast of Easter is a time for marveling in what God can do and has done. But we have these thankful hearts that we are given for the sake of the world. What to do, Easter people?

John R. Spangler,  
Interim Pastor

**Welcome to the St. Paul's Trumpet,  
A publication of St. Paul's  
Lutheran Church.**

Additional information is available on the church website at [www.stpaulslutherandc.com](http://www.stpaulslutherandc.com). St. Paul's also publishes a weekly email update – E-news. If you would like to receive the weekly E-news, please contact Joy Belew ([joyb@stpaulslutherandc.com](mailto:joyb@stpaulslutherandc.com))

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**We pray for those who are sick or  
suffering in any way, especially;**

- Family and friends of Carol Pihlstrom upon her death
- Family and friends of Jacquie McAllister upon her death
- Carolyn Denison
- Matthew Belew
- The Rademacher Family
- Donna Hershey
- Susan Russo
- Howard Mattick
- Ellen Cohen
- Lois Leland
- Bill Jackson
- Grace Yin
- Gloria Stuart
- Ralph Benson
- Our Transition Team as they gather input and vision from the congregation.
- Gloria Stuart
- Ralph Benson



## Transition Team Completes First Phase And Launches the Church Assessment Tool!

Thanks to everyone who has participated in the Table Talks and contributed to the information exchange on the Portico bulletin board. Together we produced some great insights about who St. Paul's is today, and where we want to go as a congregation in the future. The Transition Team has collected all of the data from these events and condensed into one document to review, which can be viewed hanging in the Portico.

All of this information will be used to create the Ministry Site Profile (MSP), which is the next step in calling a new pastor for St. Paul's. The MSP is the document that pastoral candidates will read as they decide whether or not to proceed in a call process with St. Paul's. We expect that the MSP will be finalized by the end of June, after which we will turn it over to the Call Committee for their work.

Accordingly, as a next step we are now collecting additional information for the MSP through a Church Assessment Tool, or CAT for short, created and administered by Holy Cow! Consulting <https://holycowconsulting.blog/>. You may recall that St. Paul's completed a different CAT several years ago, and some of the data from that prior experience will be used to show longitudinal differences within our congregation.

For those who may not be familiar with it, the CAT is a decision-making tool that provides an in-depth look at the experiences, perceptions and aspirations of a congregation. This customized assessment instrument will ask meaningful questions about our church and congregation, including what abilities our next pastor should possess, that we will use to complete the MSP. We're asking all of St. Paul's members to complete this assessment.

**You should have received a copy of the survey link in your e-mail on Monday, April 29. (Some people were mailed hard copies). For your convenience, here is the CAT link:**

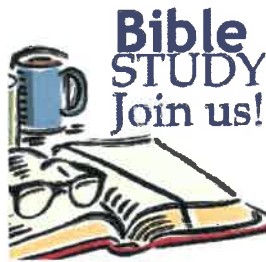
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StPaulsWashington>

Here are more details about the CAT:

- You can complete the survey online or on paper.
- There are paper copies available in the narthex and portico (in white envelopes addressed to St. Paul's). Please submit your completed survey to St. Paul's office no later than **noon on Friday, May 10.**
- **On Sunday, May 5, computers will be available** after the 8:30 am and 11:00 am worship services for you to use to complete the survey.
- It will take approximately 30 minutes to complete the survey.
- All answers are strictly anonymous. There is no way of matching any assessment to a particular person, so please feel free to candidly share your perceptions, opinions and experiences.
- Please complete the online assessment or the paper version of the survey as soon as possible and

before the deadline of Friday, May 10.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact a member of the Transition Team. St. Paul's Transition Team – Christi Barnhart, Gail Ferris, Rebecca Highsmith, Sarah Hines, Paul Reichert



The Year of Luke:

### A 3 Part Study

Join us for a three part Bible study of the Year of Luke, **7pm, June 5, 12, and 19** at St. Paul's. Pastor Spangler will lead these one hour sessions providing an overview of the Gospel from which most of our gospel lessons are taken. What would the church look like if Luke were our only gospel? Who wrote it, and for whom? Come and find out.

### New Member Info

An information session for people interested in joining St. Paul's will be held between services on **Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:45am**. The meeting will take place in the Pastor's office just off the Portico entrance. The session will last about 45 minutes and is for anyone wanting to know more about St. Paul's and membership.



### May 19th at 10 am

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will gather on May 19th at 10:00 am in the dining room adjacent to the lower auditorium. This will be the first meeting since the holidays and it will be a wonderful opportunity to catch up and begin a new year of service. If anyone is interested in joining the group please take a few minutes to sit in and see the various areas that the ministry serves. Contact Deaconess Cassie with questions at [cbrown@stpaulslutherandc.com](mailto:cbrown@stpaulslutherandc.com).

### REUNION Care Workshop to be held at St. Paul's on May 11th!

Reunion is an all volunteer, interfaith community, supporting the goals of men and women coming home from incarceration by offering a new way of thinking and a new set of friends.

With an emphasis on Freedom Circles in the faith community and Re-Integration Circles for individuals coming home, Reunion offers opportunities to learn and practice restorative justice.

St. Paul's member Barbara Moore is leading a Workshop entitled "How can my Faith Community Support Returning Residents?" and invites anyone with an interest in Reunion to join her on the morning of May 11th at St. Paul's for this workshop (time to be determined). For more information about Reunion, visit their website at [www.reuniondc.org](http://www.reuniondc.org) or contact Barbara Moore at [barlewcr@gmail.com](mailto:barlewcr@gmail.com).

## Update On St. Paul's Shelter

St. Paul's Lutheran Church continues its commitment to ministry for and with persons experiencing homelessness and remains actively supportive of the long-term mission to address the need for short term, transitional housing in DC. You may recall that last fall, we announced the shelter would be closing temporarily and would likely reopen in the future using a new model based on peer support. That decision was put on hold when it became clear that the current residents would not be able to find suitable long-term housing before the cold winter.

Since that time, the church staff has been working diligently with the current residents to be more closely connected to Friendship Place services staff, encouraged and supported in working toward finding appropriate housing. The St. Paul's shelter was never intended to be long-term housing, and there is much evidence that long-term stays in shelters can have significant negative impacts on the residents and may even impede their ability to find suitable housing.

In order move forward with the plan to reassess its structure for short term shelter for homeless persons, **the congregation's Council decided to close the current shelter on July 31, 2019.** This date provides time for current residents to plan for more permanent housing or alternative short-term shelter with the help of Friendship Place.

We will continue to support and assist the residents during this transition, and we ask the congregation to keep the men in your prayers.

If you are interested in participating in the reassessment of our ministry with homeless persons, please give your name to Joy Belew in the church office @ office@stpaulslutherandc.com or by phone.

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## Prime Time

### Center @ St. Paul's

The Prime Time Center gathers every Wednesday between 11:00 am - 2:00 pm for fun and fellowship. St.

Paul's Center continues to be blessed with a faithful ministry team who welcome the participants, spend time with them in conversation, and serves a wonderful hot luncheon to everyone. We welcome you to come and visit this vibrant community and participate in any program that seems interesting to you. The programming begins with an entertainment, lecture, or information session from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm followed by a delicious hot lunch from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. Immediately after lunch the group participates in an active hour of seated exercise.

### Upcoming Schedule

#### May 8, 2019

Ms. Megan McCall – Opera

“Music of the Renaissance and Romantic Periods”

#### May 15, 2019

Activities-to-Go

“Marvelous, Magnificent, Magical Mexico”

#### May 22, 2019

Dr. Robert Jenner

“The Roaring Twenties”

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### Altar Flowers

### Donors Needed

### for Altar Flowers

There are several dates available to donate altar flowers. The cost of the flowers is \$65. Flowers can be donated in memory of a loved one, in honor of someone's special event, or in thanksgiving for something special to you. **Dates available: May 19th, 26th; June 2nd, 9th, and 30th.** Please contact Joy Belew (joyb@stpaulslutherandc.com) to reserve a date. Thank you.



# Social Ministry

## Lenten Service Project Thank You!

The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank everyone for their support of this year's Lenten Service Project! We collected enough toiletries to distribute to for many weeks and couldn't have done it without your generosity! SPLC's pantry serves a vital role in the community, providing food to approximately 50 patrons (many of whom feed others, so the pantry's reach is more like 200!) every two weeks. The pantry is open two Saturday mornings per month and we're always looking for additional volunteers (students, this is a great way to earn summer community service hours!). To sign up for an upcoming shift, email [emilywfoley@gmail.com](mailto:emilywfoley@gmail.com). Thank you!!



First Quarter  
Financial Report  
Now Available!

One of the themes of the most recent congregational meeting was that St. Paul's works exceptionally hard to make the Church a place where everyone is welcome. The Church accomplishes many very important things, from managing the food pantry to educating children to supporting an active Prime Time fellowship to caring for the sick to sharing the sacraments. The Church tries very hard to do God's work and share God's love with a needy world.

Another theme at the meeting was the need to increase the transparency of financial reporting. Many members were not aware of the financial status of the Church and this hindered their ability to respond appropriately. You can find an initial attempt to remedy this situation in St. Paul's First Quarter Financial Report - a concise

summary of St. Paul's income and expenses and other financial highlights. Please contact the office if you are interested in receiving a copy.

Our goal is help members better understand Church finances. We welcome any comments concerning how to improve the Church's financial status or how to best report the Church's financial status to members. Please send your comments and suggestions to [office@stpaulslutherandc.com](mailto:office@stpaulslutherandc.com).



## Get Ready to ROAR--

Mark your calendars, because St. Paul's Vacation Bible School, **ROAR: Life is**

**Wild-God is Good is June 24th-28th, 2019, from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon.**

Join us as we explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers us through this wild life through worship, crafts, outdoor play, Bible study, and song. We will even have a Bible-themed snack every day!

Kids aged three (and potty-trained, please) through completed 5th Grade are invited to join in the fun. Older kids (completed 6th Grade and up) and adults are welcome to help with the programming!

Cost of the program is \$85 per child (with a \$180 family maximum) if you register by Monday, June 10th. (After June 10th, the price goes up to \$105 per child, with a \$220 family maximum.)

There is also an option for Extended Day programming from 12:00 noon until 4:00 pm every day. The cost for the Extended Day programming is \$110 per child, and space is limited. St. Paul's parishioners will be given priority registration for Extended Day until June 3rd. Registration forms are available in the portico and narthex as well as on our website at [www.stpaulslutherandc.com](http://www.stpaulslutherandc.com).

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Council members welcome your phone calls and emails.

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### Support Ministry/Property

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St. Paul's Podcasts are available online at <https://soundcloud.com/stpaulsdc>

St. Paul's Monthly Newsletter, *The Trumpet*  
Managing Editor, Joy Belew

If you have information you wish to have included in an issue, please send your submission to Joy at [joyb@stpaulslutherandc.com](mailto:joyb@stpaulslutherandc.com)



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