



St. Paul's News

Pastor's Corner by Pr Dave Heckler



They say that “Time flies when you’re having fun”— but who’s having fun in 2021 so far? In a single month, we’ve seen an insurrection, a second impeachment, a presidential inauguration, the continued raging of the coronavirus pandemic, and a slow rollout of the vaccine meant to bring that raging to a halt. Several of our folks have battled COVID-19 this past month, and others continue their battles with cancer and other diseases.

And on top of all this, it’s been an unnervingly short Epiphany season— a season in which we usually rejoice in the ways God’s presence with us is made manifest in Christ Jesus. We’ve needed some signs that the power of God has been and is still being unleashed among us in Christ. Nevertheless, Ash Wednesday, with all its reminders of our mortality and tragic addiction to sin, falls on February 17 this year; and in the weeks that follow, we’ll be reminded again and again that God’s “dearly beloved Son went not up to heaven but first He suffered pain, and entered not into glory before He was crucified.” And we’ll be challenged to devote ourselves more fervently to prayer and self-denial, to study and giving, to reflection and contemplation as we walk with Jesus the way of the cross. That’s at least more in keeping with our traditional American way of facing challenges— that “pain is the feeling of weakness leaving the body”, that if we just work a little harder and put in a little more effort, we’ll all come out of these things OK...

This past week on WHYY-FM’s “Radio Times”, host Marty Moss-Coane interviewed Harvard professor of political philosophy Michael Sandel, author of *The Tyranny of Merit: What’s Become of the Common Good*. Sandel noted that as Americans, we generally believe that if we work hard enough and “pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps”, we can succeed and prosper, and that we shape and control our own destinies. But he also pointed out that we don’t all start off on equal footing, and that between structural obstacles, “the changes and chances of life”, and flat-out tragedies, many of our labors amount to seemingly little.

Continued on Next Page

Join us for LIVE services every Sunday morning at 9:00 am on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown/live>

If you do not have a facebook account; that is okay, you may still view the live services. If you do not have facebook, and you go to the live facebook site, you will see this:

See more of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Applebachsville on Facebook

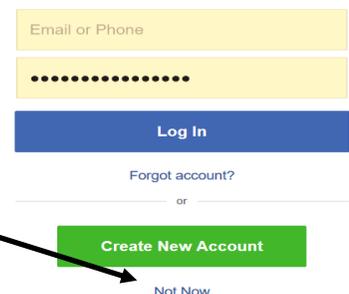


You can try to click on the video you want to watch while ignoring the box above, the video should pop up in a new screen and you should be able to watch. BUT, if facebook does not allow you to, continue with the following instructions:

On the right hand side of the screen scroll down to the bottom and this box should pop up instead of the one above:

**At the bottom you will see NOT NOW
Click on Not Now then scroll up to
The video. You will be able to watch. You
may also watch older videos you may have missed.
When you click on the video you want, it should pop up in
a new tab.**

See more of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church o...



Pastor's Corner Continued

Moreover, Sandel noted that this enduring and uniquely American myth, far more than it's inspired us to greater achievements, has driven us further apart, fueled resentment and despair, and contributed to growing and structurally embedded income inequality. Though politicians have used the myth of meritocracy in recent decades to disable the middle class and enrich the already privileged, Sandel urges us to rid ourselves of this mindset...

As I listened to this interview, I had mixed feelings. One of my greatest joys in life is seeing people overcome tragic and grievous injuries to recover mobility, speech, dexterity, and psychic and spiritual wounds of all sorts—so I've seen what God can do through our perseverance and courage. But as Jesus' call of His disciples and Jesus' journey to His cross and beyond certainly reveal, the repentance and transformation of life into which Jesus calls us bid us re-examine some of our most basic assumptions about the identity and nature of power, glory, weakness, our real "enemies", and our own righteousness. The story of Jesus mirrors to us the deep tragedy of our self-made righteousness and "success" and "merit" and "achievement" and bids us ask honestly "How then shall we live?"

And then Jesus does what we can't imagine (but what Epiphany and Lent are ultimately all about): He meets us in our vulnerability with His own humanity, His own vulnerability, His own self-giving love that defies our tragic machinations and merits with a life we can't achieve, a life that's truly eternal. He defies the Empire with its goddesses of conquest and its dominions of violence and destruction with the life-giving power of God leveraged at the grassroots level, among those whom the rest of society is content to leave outcast. He dignifies the "lowliest" of labors and laborers alike, revealing in so doing that in His body, everyone's an "essential worker", a beloved child of God through whom God longs to bring His healing and reconciling work into existence in someone else's life. And even "in the night in which He was betrayed," Jesus meets us where we are in our shared vulnerability and gives Himself to us in love that we might have His life, His glory, His blessing, and His place—our place—in communion with God.

And we? We receive these gifts; we give thanks for these gifts; and we share these gifts, this vulnerability with others. Where we have more than enough, we share with those who don't. And we speak up for those whom false meritocracies and dominions and "the basic principles of this world" still tread upon, that they may know their dignity and belovedness in God's sight and in ours as well and come to receive what God has to give them. We serve the Lord, that they may go in peace and live in joy...

Yours in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Pr. Dave

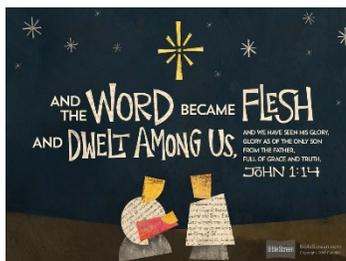
Bulletin and Flower Sponsors Needed

If you'd like to sponsor a bulletin, the following dates are available: July 25; Aug. 1, 22, & 29; Oct. 24 & 31; Nov. 7; Dec. 5. The following available dates for flowers are: Jan. 17, 24, & 31; Feb. 14; Mar. 14 & 21; June 6; Sept. 5 & 26; Oct. 24, & 31; Dec. 19. If you'd like more information or would like to sponsor, please contact Linda at 610.395.1114. Thank you!



Happy Birthday

Jacob Baringer 2/3
 Victoria Hassler 2/4
 Caden Keeler 2/4
 Mary Martin 2/6
 Mary Johnson 2/7
 Lauren Gibson 2/8
 Robert Ball 2/9
 Debra Constable 2/13
 Janet Miller 2/16
 Marie Shaw 2/16
 Jason Beaumont 2/18
 Donna Martin 2/22
 Josephine Scott 2/24
 Dia Johnson—Smith 2/25



FEBRUARY WORSHIP NEWS: THE LIGHT OF CHRIST STILL DEFIES DARKNESS

This year, the month of February presents us with a dramatic mid-winter turn from a short Epiphany season right into the season of Lent. But both seasons bid us ponder the wonder of “God in flesh made manifest” in Christ Jesus, a wonder that still turns the world upside down. Here how we’ll be doing this:

- ✦ Because we’re still steeped in the COVID-19 pandemic, we’re postponing our return to in-person worship in the sanctuary until it’s safer for us to gather. (Our Council will review this decision periodically and adjust our response appropriately.) **We’ll continue to livestream our worship via Facebook Live and host our fellowship hour via Zoom**, so hang in there with us— and spread the word.
- ✦ For **Feb. 7 and 14**, we’ll continue to use **Holy Communion Setting 5** from the blue *With One Voice* hymnal as our base liturgy. It’s a musically upbeat setting of our traditional Lutheran liturgy, centered on a bold setting of the angels’ Christmas song “Glory to God in the Highest!” Both of these services will also include **Holy Communion**, so be sure to have your home altar ready with bread and wine on those days...
- ✦ **Feb. 7** is also **Scout Sunday**— so Pr Dave’s hoping to feature some of our Scouts from Troop 007 in the service via readings and/or reflections.
- ✦ On **Feb. 14**, most folks will be thinking of Valentine’s Day— but we’ll also be celebrating **the Transfiguration of Our Lord**, where the “brightest and best of the stars of the morning” unmistakably reveals God’s glory on the mountaintop before His journey shifts decisively toward the cross for our salvation. It’s both a last taste of Epiphany’s light and a foretaste of Easter’s victory and history’s consummation all rolled into one— don’t miss it!

AND THEN COMES LENT...

- ✦ Then on **Feb. 17 @ 7:00 PM**, we’ll begin the holy and solemn season of **Lent** with the livestreaming of our annual **Ash Wednesday Eucharist** from St Paul’s. This beginning of our wilderness journey will feature an extended confession of sins, the imposition of ashes (see the article later in this newsletter on how we might do this), and the sharing of Holy Communion in a rich testimony both to the brokenness our sin has wrought upon us and to the amazing grace of Christ Jesus who sets us free. Our brothers and sisters from Christ UCC in Trumbauersville will be sharing with us in this service as well. You’ll want to be sure to have your home altar ready with bread and wine, perhaps a candle and/or a cross, and of course, some ashes...
- ✦ **Feb. 21** is the **First Sunday of Lent**— a season in which we journey with Jesus from the divine declaration of Jesus’ glory through the wilderness to the true glory of Christ Jesus seen in His cross. During the Lenten season, we’ll be using a “**hymn mass**” setting with canticles to familiar hymn tunes (including a variety of “Kyrie” settings). This Sunday will also be a Holy Communion Sunday, so have your home altar ready.



DON'T FORGET TO ...

1. Save your Redner's receipts and place in the envelope on the Narthex Bulletin Board. This is a simple way to financially help St. Paul's.
2. Save your aluminum tabs from Soda Cans, Soup Cans, etc. and give to Todd Silvius for the Ronald McDonald House.
3. If you have e-mail; sign up for the Electronic version of the newsletter by e-mailing us at stpaulsqtown@gmail.com.

We are looking for a **new congregational coordinator** for our Food Pantry efforts here at St Paul. Many thanks to Denise Shaeffer for her fine work over the years! If you're interested, please contact Pr Dave.

Bakers Needed! Do you like to bake? Each Friday Sue Young coordinates a baker to supply treats to help support the AA Let Go and Let God group meeting at St. Paul's. She is hoping to add a couple more bakers to those who already participate in this ministry. If you are interested, please contact Sue Young at 610-982-5541 or e-mail her at sueyoung751@gmail.com Thank you!



Baptismal Anniversaries!

We rejoice to celebrate people's biological birthdays all the time, and rightly. But as wonderful as receiving the gift of life in this world is, receiving the gift of new and eternal life in Christ Jesus in our Baptism is even more wonderful (and best of all, it never grows old!). Why shouldn't we celebrate the anniversary of our new birth in Christ even more gladly?

Happy Baptismal Birthday!

Stefanie Bauman, Jessica Hallman, Amara Johnson



Shopping more often at Amazon due to COVID19? If so, continue reading to raise some money for St. Paul's!

Help support St. Paul's every time you shop at Amazon by bookmarking this link and using it when you shop at Amazon: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-6272047>. You will see an amazon log -in screen which states on the left .5% of all eligible purchases will be given to Saint Paul's Lutheran Church of Applebachsville. Sign in with your account/password and continue with your purchase and check out. The total donation by Amazon for all eligible purchases will be credited to the church's bank account on a quarterly basis. Once you register St. Paul's as your preferred charity, it becomes a part of your Amazon account and all future purchases will automatically be credited to the church. Any questions regarding this program can be directed to the Finance Committee or just use the information tabs on the Amazon site.



Like Us on Facebook (and Otherwise Online)!

Did you know that St Paul's maintains an active church website, as well as several Facebook pages? Check out our online presence at the following sites:

- Our church website: www.stpaulsqtown.org
- Our email address: stpaulsqtown@gmail.com
- Our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown

- Our Joyful Noise Facebook page: www.facebook.com/joyfulnoiseatstpauls
- For daily Morning and Evening Prayer: <https://dailyoffice.wordpress.com/>

On Going Business:

1. **Vanguard Account Balances:** As of December 31, 2020, the balance was \$136,210.92; as of Nov 30, the balance was \$134,075.79.
2. **Income statement:** As of December 31, 2020, expenses exceeded income by (17,333.71); November 30, expenses exceeded income by (\$20,457.99).
3. **Cemetery:** Account totals as of December 31, 2020, \$88,490.86; November 30 \$84,971.08. One congregational member owes \$325 for a plot partially paid for.



Thursday Morning Bible Study News

Come join us each week for our **Thursday Morning Bible Study** from **10:00 AM-12:00 NN** via Zoom or Free Conference Call! (See article below for instructions. For Zoom, use meeting ID number 370 014 7169 and passcode 119805.) We're "**Living with the Lectionary**", digging into the Scripture readings for the upcoming week to discover the treasures that await us come Sunday. You don't have to be a biblical "expert" to get a lot out of this study— so come on out in the broad daylight and invite your friends to join you!



Krispy Kreme Fundraiser for Scouts Troop 007

Our Scouts BSA Troop 007 is currently holding a **Krispy Kreme Donut and Coffee Fundraiser** to help support the Troop's ministries. Krispy Kreme donuts are available by the dozen, as well as 12-oz. bags of Krispy Kreme coffee, for \$10 each. Donuts are available in Glazed, Chocolate Iced, Glazed-Kreme Filled, Glazed-Raspberry Filled, or Glazed-Lemon Filled; coffee is available in Classic Coffee, Classic Decaf Coffee, Bold 1937 Coffee, and Original Glazed Coffee flavors. Orders are due by Jan. 28; delivery will be the evening of Feb. 9. All payments may be made by cash, by checks written out to "Troop 007", or via Venmo @Terra-Schote. (Please notate "KK Donut Fundraiser" along with your name, phone number, quantity, and flavor). Anyone not wanting donuts but wishing to donate to our amazing troop can send a check to Troop 007, c/o St Paul's Lutheran Church, 837 Old Bethlehem Rd., Quakertown, PA 18951. Thank you for your continued support. BSA Troop 007 sincerely appreciates it!

**Join us, Ash Wednesday, via
livestream on facebook at
[https://www.facebook.com/
StPaulsQtown/live](https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown/live)
February 17th at 7:00 PM
to worship together!**



Waking Up White: Finding Myself in the Story of Race"

Come join our Synod's Anti-Racism Team for a book discussion series on Debbie Irving's *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*. These discussions will take place on Monday evenings in late January and February from 6:30-8:00 PM via Zoom. Topics include:

- January 25 "Beginning your racial autobiography"
- February 1 "What is race?"
- February 8 "What is racism?"
- February 15 "Where do we go from here?"

Pr Dave has already participated in a reading and discussion of this book through the UCC's Penn Southeast Conference, and he heartily recommends this book. For more information and to register for this free series, email antiracism@sepa.org.

**Monthly Special:
Lutheran Disaster Response**

Taken from the ELCA website at:
<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response>

“Lutheran Disaster Response brings God’s hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.”

They have helped with Hurricanes, Middle East Crisis, US Wildfires, US Sever Storms, COVID-19, US Tornadoes, US Flooding, South Sudan Relief, Middle East and Europe Refugee Crisis, AMMPARO: Protecting Migrant Minors.

For more information please go to their website linked above.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Join Us During Social Distancing on Zoom!

- If you'd like to participate in any of our **activities taking place over Zoom**, go to zoom.us, click “Join a Meeting” at the top right of the page, use meeting ID 3700147169, and if it asks for a password, use 119805 and you should be in.
- If you're using your phone, these dial-in numbers will work: 929.205.6099 or 312.626.6799. After you dial, you'll be asked for the host's code, and you'll type in 3700147169#, then 119805# and you're in. (What's more, with your smart phone or computer, you can engage video as well as audio, so we can see and hear you—something that's precious right now!)
- You can also use **Free Conference Call [FCC]: Dial 857.232.0157**, enter conference code 144261, and you're in.
- Since Pr. Dave is now back at Christ Church in Trumbauersville on Sunday mornings at 11:00 AM (they resumed in-person worship on October 4), our **Sunday morning Fellowship Hour** is now being hosted on Zoom by Patty Schumacher— and we'd love for you to attend! To do so, follow the instructions above for Zoom, but use meeting ID **839 381 0896** and passcode **90e8Dm**.



FaceTime



Supporting Our Ministries

Thank you for continuing to support our ministries here at St Paul's during this time of safe distancing. While we haven't been able to meet in person during this time, our staff continues to work hard, our bills, salaries, and repairs still need to be paid, and we continue to reach out to our community to make disciples and touch people's lives with the love of Christ. Your support, through your tithes and offerings, continues to be needed during this time.

And now **you can financially support our ministries in several ways:** [1] If you're already signed up for **Simply Giving**, you're already taken care of; [2] You can **mail your offerings** to the church; and now [3] You can go to our church website (www.stpaulsqtown.org) and make your contributions online, even using a credit card. Whatever way you choose, your contributions help us continue to serve our congregation and community and build upon the good things God's doing through us.

COMMUNION BREAD RECIPE

Sift dry ingredients together **three times** (this is important):
3 cups flour (2 c. whole wheat, 1 c. white if possible)
1¼ tsp. baking powder
1¼ tsp. salt

Stir in 4 tsp. [olive] oil. Set aside.

Divide dough into four balls and flatten each ball into a ¼-in. thick disk. With a knife, score a cross onto the top of each loaf (or score it like a pizza might be cut).

Lay the loaves on a baking sheet. Bake at 350° F for 10 mins. Remove from oven and brush the tops of the loaves with [olive] oil. Then bake them for an additional 5 minutes. Then pull them out and let them cool. After sharing the bread in Holy Communion, after the service is over, reverently eat the rest of the loaf together.

Mix wet ingredients together until dissolved:
¾ cup + 2 Tbsp. very hot water (180+° F)

3 Tbsp. honey
3 Tbsp. molasses

Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients and mix well. Dough should be slightly sticky. Don't knead the dough.



Ash Wednesday: Just a Little Different This Year...



On February 17, we'll begin the penitential season of Lent by observing **Ash Wednesday**. There's nothing unusual about that—except that this year, we won't be able to gather in person to share in this service Holy Communion. We'll be livestreaming the service from St Paul's and sharing in Holy Communion "virtually" as we've been doing for at least the past six months. But there's one logistical problem you're probably anticipated: **"How are we going to share in the Imposition of Ashes together when we're unable to gather together in the sanctuary?"** Well, let's talk about that:

The meaning of the ashes: For millennia, people have expressed their sorrow for sin and their desire to turn away from their sins and turn back to God by dressing in coarse garments like sackcloth (think burlap) and putting ashes on their heads. In the Church, this rite evolved into an even richer symbolic rite that combined penitence with a reminder of the shallowness of our piety and the overcoming grace of God displayed in our Baptism into union with Christ's death and resurrection. By mixing the ashes of last year's Palm Sunday palms with the anointing oil used in marking the sign of the cross on our foreheads in Holy Baptism and then smudging the sign of the cross in those ashes on our foreheads, we remember both our fundamental human frailty and sin and God's gracious intervention in Christ that gives us the repentance we can't manufacture on our own.

But where will we get our ashes this year? After all, you probably don't have last year's palm fronds or anointing oil lying around to make those ashes at home. Well, there are two ways you can gather ashes to use at home when we get to that point in our service:

- ✦ One is to use what you have on hand. Do you have a fireplace? Ashes from your fireplace will do if you don't have palms (burned cellulose is burned cellulose, no matter where the cellulose comes from); and at its core, anointing oil is basic olive oil. Mix the ashes and the olive oil in a small dish to form a black paste. And dedicate what you have to God's use with prayer and thanksgiving; that's what consecrates it, not a pastor's "magic zap".
- ✦ If you want to do something a little more symbolic and you're not afraid to burn something, try this: At least an hour before the service, provide everyone in attendance with you a pencil and a small sheet of paper. Have each person write down something that they'd like to confess and/or repent of. (Younger children can draw out their confessions.) Then crumple up and toss the confessions into a fireproof metal pan in a well-ventilated place. Soak the papers in a little rubbing alcohol (it's a mild accelerant and it'll help keep the smoke down), then use a candlelighter to light the confessions on fire, saying "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Once the papers have been reduced to ash, use a metal spoon to mash the ashes to powder (and put out any remaining flame), add a little cooking oil, and mix them into a paste.

However you procure your ashes, at the appropriate time in the service, have each person dip their thumb or finger in the paste and make the sign of the cross on their neighbor's forehead, saying **"Remember that you're dust, and to dust you shall return."** After the service, return the ashes to the earth, perhaps in a garden area, where something new will spring from among the ashes...

Of course, if you're not into receiving the ashes (or you don't want to work/play with fire), here's an alternative: Set a small bowl of water on your home altar. When we reach the point in our service for the "imposition of ashes", dip your fingers in the water and make the sign of the cross on your neighbor's forehead, saying **"Buried with Christ and dead to sin, arise with Christ to live in Him."** In the past, we've included both "cross-signings" in our Ash Wednesday services. Either one, or both, will work in these pandemic times. The key is the tactile remembering of our human frailty, our Baptismal union with Christ in His death, and the promise of resurrection life into which God turn our lives around...

And remember, our Ash Wednesday service is a service of **Holy Communion** in which we share once more in Jesus' response to our human betrayals: "This is My body, given for you... This is my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin..." So be sure to have your home altar ready with bread and wine to share...

Happy Valentine's Day: Promises of Love from Our Heavenly Father.....

Romans 8:38-39: NOTHING can separate YOU from the Love of the Lord! He loves YOU!
“Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 5:8: LOVE in ACTION—dying for us while we still sinners. He loves YOU!
“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, *in that while we were still sinners*, Christ died for us. “

1 John 3:1: YOU have been ADOPTED into His family—YOU are now His Child. He loves YOU!
“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!”

1 John 4:10: (Again) LOVE in ACTION— He took YOUR sins on HIMSELF not because HE HAD to but, because HE WANTED YOU. He loves YOU!
“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

Matthew 10:29-31: YOU are important to HIM. HE SEES YOU! He loves YOU!
“Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. “So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.”

Psalms 103:8: His love is firm and unwavering! He loves YOU Constantly!
“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”



Zephaniah 3:10: He delights in YOU! His Love will quiet you.
HE loves YOU!

“The LORD your God in your midst,
The Mighty One, will save;
He will rejoice over you with gladness,
He will quiet *you* with His love,
He will rejoice over you with singing.”

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN JOYFUL SERVICE!
Ash Wed. Livestream Service: Feb. 17th @ 7:00 PM**

**St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church
837 Old Bethlehem Road
Quakertown, PA 18951**

The St. Paul's News

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
of Applebachsville**

**837 Old Bethlehem Road
Quakertown, PA 18951**

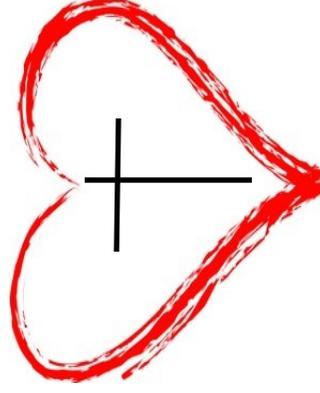
Pastor David Heckler

**Church: 215-536-5789
stpaulsqtown@gmail.com www.stpaulsqtown.org**

Each Member of the Congregation, Ministers

John 3:16

**For God SO LOVED the world that He
gave His only begotten SON, that whoso-
ever believeth in Him should NOT perish,
but have EVERLASTING life.**



February 2021