

The Messenger



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Dependence Day

July 4, 2021 marks the 245th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence by the American colonies. Celebrations in the United States will mark the historical claiming of independence, but also will highlight aspects of American national identity such as individualism.

On this day when many in the United States revel in independence, we encounter a gospel story grounded entirely in dependence. Jesus does not send out disciples on their own, but rather as pairs. He orders them to take nothing with them except what they are wearing. As they travel from place to place, they will be entirely dependent on the hospitality of those they encounter for food, water, shelter, and other needs that arise along the way.

As they cast out demons and heal people, it is not through their own power, but their dependence on Jesus. Even Jesus has a touch of dependence in this story. The people of Nazareth cannot see past the little boy he was, to the powerful prophet and teacher he has become. This somehow limits the deeds of power he can accomplish among them. The expectations of the town's people seem to get in the way.

The risen Jesus certainly breaks all sorts of expectations, and Martin Luther's explanation of the third article of the creed reminds us that it is not by our own power that we come to faith, but that the Holy Spirit "calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 1162).

Our gospel for today, alongside Luther's reflection, reminds us that part of the gift of life we have in Christ is community—dependent, loving, compassionate, frustrating, messy, blessed community. We call this community the church, the body of Christ. All its members are gifted, all of them necessary, all of them dependent on one another. In this dependence is strength, joy, and hope. Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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*We always thank
 GOD for all of you
 and continually
 mention you in
 our prayers.*

Members of St. Paul's: Jane Asche, Margaret Asche, Gordon Behrens, Lisa Fisher, Ursula Kadolph, Conroy Marth, Pastor Donald McClean, Edith Roe, Else Ross, Richard Sump, Delores Mullikin and Louise White.

Friends of St. Paul's: Erin Bartz, Lisa Callahan, Bonnie Chambers, Glynn Chambers, Hunter Clough, Michael Eaton (brother of Rosemary Spies), Lyn Fuller, Dorothy Hiner, Katelyn Howard, Darren Leonard, Mary Ellen Leaverton, Jim and Diane Lewis, (mother and father of Jamie and Jeff Lewis and mother and father in-law of Michelle and Meredith Lewis), Michael Mumford (son of Dale & Betty Jean Mumford), John Rickwood, and Cade Wineke. We pray for those serving in the military: Tessa Heller, Hunter Priest and Victoria Jacobs.

Happy 4th of July!



Dear Members of St. Pauls,

Thank you to my church family for the acknowledgement of my high school graduation. It was a very cute candy bouquet! I appreciate your ongoing prayers for my journey ahead.

Sincerely,
 Riley



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President	Kathy Barletta	410 829-8860	barlettarkc@gmail.com
Vice President/Property	Tom Roesel	703 785-8922	thomasroesel@gmail.com
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Secretary	Diana Oburgh	443 262-8868	doburgh@aol.com
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Worship, Music, Education	Carol Meers	410 507-6833	fcmeers@comcast.net
Evangelism, Outreach	Donna Saathoff	410 310-1331	donnasaathoff529@gmail.com

God has been generous to us in many ways. We believe that sharing these gifts in His name is a tangible way of expressing one's faith. As active Christians, we are called to give generously to assist our neighbors through our time, talents and treasures.

During this time of pandemic, you may not feel comfortable attending services in-person but want to still send offerings to the church. This can be done by mailing offerings to the church or by using Tithe.ly.

The direct link to our Tithe.ly account is <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1747825>
If you have any questions about Tithe.ly, please contact Donna Stevens, Financial Secretary 410-820-7243 or dstevens62@icloud.com



St. Paul's Email Prayer ministry . . .

If you would like to add your name or a friend's name to the email prayer list, to receive prayers from our prayer ministry group, please email Betty Jean Mumford at

bettyjmumford@hotmail.com

Please make sure you have the permission of the person you are adding, some people do not want to add their name to a public list.



TALBOT INTERFAITH SHELTER—We need a meal the first of every month for the Shelter in Easton, if you can help please see Mike Hiner for more information or you can sign up on the sheet by the office.

“You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor?” (Matthew 5:13, NLT). These words from Jesus might seem strange to us — *can* salt lose its flavor? But in New Testament times, most of the salt used as seasoning, preservative, medicinal aid and more came from the Dead Sea, where impurities often compromised its usefulness, especially its flavor.

Jesus urges his disciples — including us — to not let the flavor of the gospel be suppressed in our lives. What might do this? Teachings that treat patriotism, prosperity or any other value as equal to Jesus; the tendency to elevate one nation, church denomination, theological understanding or religious tradition above all others; such intense focus on the laws of ancient Israel that we neglect the superseding grace of God. But neither should we force the gospel on people, like overpowering their food by dumping in too much salt at once.

As followers of Jesus, we're the salt of the earth. Let us use his good news to *gently* season others' lives with service and love



← BE STRONG ≡
and
≡ COURAGEOUS →
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,
for the Lord your God
will be with you wherever
you go
Joshua 1:9

During our service on June 6, we had a special recognition for our high school and college graduates. Each of our graduates was recognized for their accomplishments and received a special blessing and gift from our congregation. May God bless each graduate as they embark on their new journey.



Ministry Update

On June 10, 2021 a special joint congregational meeting was held at St. Paul's to discuss a shared ministry with Grace. Currently there are 37 shared ministries in Maryland. A shared ministry would allow for each church to have their own worship service and identity while sharing pastoral finances.

It was recognized that the two congregations are different and as such, communication is essential moving forward. Each congregation would provide three members to form a covenant group who would gather frequently for discussion with the pastor and to ensure that each congregations' needs are met. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact a member of the church council.

Bible Quiz

What was the name of the queen who refused to appear before the king of Persia and his guests and, as a result, was deposed?

A. Esther
B. Jael
C. Vashti
D. Milcah



Answer: C (See Esther 1:12.)

Your grace is sufficient for me, dear Lord.
When I feel weak, may your strength dwell in me. (2 Corinthians 12:9)



SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEERS

USHERS

July 4 Henry and Lyn Hollingsworth
July 11 Henry and Lyn Hollingsworth
July 18 Diana Hurd and Ralph Smith
July 25 Lee Moore and Lee Heinsohn



Tellers

July 4 Henry and Lyn Hollingsworth
July 11 Henry and Lyn Hollingsworth
July 18 Diana Hurd and Ralph Smith
July 25 Lee Moore and Lee Heinsohn

ALTAR FLOWERS

July 4 Fred and Carol Meers
July 11
July 18 Deneen Rickwood
July 25 Else Ross



“Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible.”

—Corrie ten Boom

Bible Quiz

What seemingly small act did Jesus specifically say would be rewarded?

A. Giving a child a toy
B. Giving a lost traveler directions
C. Giving someone a cup of cold water
D. Giving a sad person a hug



Answer: C (See Matthew 10:42.)

LECTORS



July 4 Beth Roesel
July 11 Ellen Mulder
July 18 Betty Jean Mumford
July 25 Bobbie Leaverton



July Altar

Marian Davis

Sleep is a daily reminder from God that we are not God. Once a day God sends us to bed like patients with a sickness. The sickness is a chronic tendency to think we are in control and that our work is indispensable. To cure us of this disease, God turns us into helpless sacks of sand once a day.

—John Piper

 **JULY**
Birthdays

- 7/3 Daniel Davis
- 7/5 Beverly Ward
- 7/6 Diana Hurd
- 7/6 David Ward
- 7/15 Becky Loukides
- 7/19 Molly Rusch
- 7/26 Clay Stevens
- 7/27 Matthew Rusch
- 7/28 Henry Hollingsworth
- 7/28 Ellen Mulder

 **JULY**
Anniversaries

- 7/3 Fred and Carol Meers
- 7/24 Carl and Fay Sauca
- 7/29 Donald and Ruth McClean



*Come and enjoy our
Bible Study, every
Tuesday at 9 am.
You never know what
surprises await!*



**Jesus is My Superhero
Vacation Bible School
June 2021**



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Return Service Requested

Worship Service Begins at 9am
Please inform the church office of any
changes in your personal information:
Address, phone number, marriage or
divorce, or new births so that we
can keep our records up-to-date.

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