



Praise & Patter – September 2021

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

24 E. Baltimore St. • PO Box 148 • Funkstown, MD 21734 • 301.791.1738
office@stpaulsfunktown.org www.stpaulsfunktownmd.org

If you look up the definition of “church” in Merriam-Webster dictionary or Dictionary.com you will discover that the first entry is “a building for public Christian worship.” When you read down to the third entry you will find one of these definitions: “the whole body of Christian believers” or “any division of this body professing the same creed and acknowledging the same ecclesiastical authority; a Christian denomination.”

There are many people who believe that the church is a building, even though that is not a biblical understanding of the church. The word “church” in the New Testament is a translation of the Greek word “ekklesia,” which means “an assembly” or “gathering of those who are called out.”

In Matthew’s gospel, Jesus said to the disciples. “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. *Matthew 16:15-18 (ESV)*

In Paul’s letter to the Ephesians he writes: “God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.” *Ephesians 1:22-23 (NLT2)*

From these two passages, we can see that the “church” is clearly NOT a building, but a people. The church is made up of believers, with Christ as the head.

Another misconception of “church” is that the local church is like a small business where the pastor is the CEO and the people are the customers. With this understanding, some believe that the church exists to provide a menu of programs, activities, and events to be consumed by members.

Let me share two passages of scripture that reveal a different purpose for the church.

“We are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.” *Philippians 3:20 (NLT2)*

“We are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” *2 Corinthians 5:20 (ESV)*

Perhaps a better image of the church is an embassy. As Christians, we are citizens of the kingdom of heaven, and the local churches on earth are little embassies of that kingdom. Since it is often the case that the values of the kingdom of heaven are in conflict with those of the world, we will likely find ourselves living in the hostile territory of this earthly realm. Here on earth we serve as soldiers in battle. This is why Paul says: “Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.” *Ephesians 6:10-12 (NLT2)*

I recently read an article by Matthew Emadi, who says: “The stakes are high, and we have work to do. When we disciple a new Christian, we’re not just being friendly; we’re preparing them for battle against the world, the flesh, and the devil (Eph. 3:13–14). When we gather for corporate worship on the Lord’s Day, we’re not just doing our duty; we’re displaying the manifold wisdom of God to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places (Eph. 3:10). When we take part in missions and evangelism, we’re not peddling a product; we’re announcing to the world that all authority in heaven and on earth belongs to Christ, and Satan can no longer deceive the nations (Matt. 28:18–20; Col. 2:15).

During World War II, ordinary American citizens rationed consumer goods, recycled materials, and kept factories running night and day. They sacrificed much because they knew the stakes. Do we? Do we realize that we are citizens of Christ's kingdom? Do we realize our churches are outposts of that kingdom on the front lines of a spiritual battle? The stakes are high, and the needs are great. For this reason Christ calls every member of his church to enlist in service. Why? Because a local church is an embassy of Christ's kingdom." (*Should the Church Operate Like a Business?*, June 11, 2021)

What is your understanding of the church? Are you a member of a club? Are you a consumer of goods and services? Are you a citizen of heaven, fighting against the fake news and false truths of this world? Are you part of the body of Christ, a gathering of people that focus on sharing the good news of Jesus in a misguided and hurting world? What does the church mean to you?

Pastor Lee

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

In-Person – Masks will no longer be required in our building. 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

Facebook Live – www.facebook.com/stpaulsfunkstown

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 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 June/July \$42,627.22

Chargings received in June/July \$
Expenses June/July \$38 831 70

Principal paid on debt: \$4 285.52

Faith Formation

Bible Study starts on Tuesday, September 7 at 10:00 AM. Everyone is invited! Please come as you are able (weekly attendance is wonderful but not required).

Prayer Ministry

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

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Sept. 5	Andrew, Whitney, Allison, Carys, Elliott Reichard, Steve & Debbie Reichard; Martin, Donna, Matthew & Lacey Reichert; Bill Renner; Patrick Renner; Amy Renner; Tom & Eileen Renwick, Martin, Lois & Ashley Richards; and Jerry & Doris Richardson
Sept. 12	Steven Richardson; Tamara Ridenour, Susan Riley, Jill, Kaitlyn & Matthew Ritter; Jim, Alice, Brandon & Jenna Roberts; Mayetta Roby; Richard Roby; Robert, Kimberly Rodgers, Aaron Rodgers, Andrew, Natasha & Brantley Rodgers; Marie Royce;
Sept. 19	Donna & Valerie Schmidt; Eric, Stephanie & Douglas Schminkey; Robin Schneider; Marsha, Brody, Samantha Secrest, Peg Shank; Stephanie, Connor & Cara Shank; Cory Shank; Tucker, Amanda, Timmy and Brandon Shaw; Dick Shipley
Sept. 26	Virginia Simon; Anna Jean Smith; Jeannette Smith; Diana Smith; Jennifer Smith; David, Amanda, Rachel & Laura Smith; Lynn & Linda Spalding;

Newsletter News

The deadline to receive information for the October newsletter is NOON on September 21st. Your meeting this deadline ensures we can publish the October Newsletter by the end of September.

Noisy Offering will be on September 12. We will provide containers in the Narthex to receive your offering.

Night Out will be held on Tuesday September 21st at Olive Garden at 6:00 pm. Come and have a relaxing, casual dinner and fellowship with your fellow disciples. Remember, all men and women of the congregation (and your friends) are invited to participate.

Our Daily Bread booklet for September, October and November are available for pick up.

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.

September Birthdays

1	Jackie Harbaugh*	13	Barb Tingle	24	Kiersten Hollinger
6	Hope Kable	14	Tori Brumback Jim Unger	26	Richard Stallings* Bryan Obitts
7	Barry Warrenfeltz Jim Hebb	16	Samantha Wilson Terry Miller	27	Jean Duffey
9	Brenda Oberholzer Brianna Oberholzer Bradley Prather	17	Barbara Timm*	28	Pam Crampton Robert Kline, II Keldra Morningstar
11	Wesley Kline Jack Macquire	19	Rachel Lighter	29	Lance Crampton
12	Ron McNamee*	20	Wilbur King, Sr.* Jean Daywalt	30	Gladys Unger*
		21	Pam Young Richard Nigh Courtney Macquire		*=80 years and over

September Anniversaries

3	Bill & Judy Morningstar	17	Kyle & Amy Haught	26	Dave & Patty Johnston
7	Don & Lauren Horan	20	Scott & Gwen Barron	29	Rick & Janet Moats
11	Robert & Krista Wilson				

HARC HIKE for Hunger & Hope

Come out on September 11 and enjoy a 4K, 10K, or half marathon hike on the beautiful C&O Canal Towpath to support HARC and Micah's Backpack! Fully supported hike with fun features for families, snacks and drinks along the way, and a delicious lunch celebration at the end. This year we will also celebrate 20 years of interfaith work that came out of the tragedy of 9-11. Towpath not challenging enough? Join our 20-mile Challenge Hike on September 25 on the Appalachian Trail. If you have any questions, please contact the HARC office at 301-842-4272 or director@harccoalition.org or our Hike Director, Ed Poling at 301-766-9005 or epoling1@gmail.com. Visit the website at <https://harccoalition.org/hike/>

Up Coming Events

September 7, 14, 21, 28 Crossways Bible Study at 10:00 AM

September 14 – Council Meeting

September 21 – Newsletter Deadline and Night Out

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. For questions, please contact Fred & Julie Schamber, 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

Director of Music: Cara Price

Council President: Travis Fouche 301.730.8926