



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS: How not to “die on the vine”

April 25, 2024

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.” (John 15:1-8, NRSV)

This is the gospel text for this coming Sunday, the 5th Sunday of Easter. And while I'll be going in a slightly different direction with my sermon on Sunday, I found myself thinking about the connections between the vinegrower (God), the vine (Jesus) and the fruit (us). During the Passover meal that Jesus shared with his disciples before his death, Jesus tells them, *“Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”* Jesus was preparing his disciples for the time when he would no longer be with them physically. How could they stay connected to him? How could they continue to “bear much fruit”?

We can ask those same questions for ourselves: how do we stay connected to our Triune God, Father, Son and Spirit? Hopefully you can think of ways to do so (daily prayer and Bible reading, weekly worship, volunteering). But we

can also try and answer that question as the Body of Christ, particularly as a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. How do we stay connected to the wider church, to congregations within the ELCA, and even other Lutheran church bodies around the world? What is our relationship with congregations in our synod, with those in the Cumberland Conference or the participating congregations of the Upper West Shore Ecumenical Ministerium? What connects us as the Body of Christ? How do we work together to share the love of Christ with our neighbors?

If you are still reading (thank you!), you may be excited to learn that St. Paul's Congregation Council has invited a number of neighboring Lutheran congregations to join in conversation about sharing pastoral resources. This was a suggestion from Rev. Beth Martini, assistant to the bishop, as the next step in St. Paul's process to call a new pastor. Since it has been determined that a part-time pastor is desired, we will most likely need to work with another congregation or congregations to jointly call a pastor or to contract for pastoral ministry. So we are inviting all congregations who are interested in conversation around this topic to join us on Saturday, June 8, 9:00 to 11:30 am, location to be determined. St. Paul's council members will be attending, but others are welcome as well. If you have any questions about this event, feel free to reach out to me.

In addition to the steps involved to call a new pastor, Congregation Council is also focusing its work on the possibility of selling the land to the east of the cemetery, approval of a new facilities rental policy, advertising the rental of our (commercial) kitchen to caterers, choosing a contractor and figuring out how to finance new roofing for the church and memorial buildings, and renegotiating our cell tower rental agreement. This is a weighty agenda! Please hold these leaders in prayer as they discern the work of the Holy Spirit in all of these important issues.

As always, thank you for your faithfulness to St. Paul's through your financial gifts and participation in worship, learning and fellowship activities.
Pastor Gwenn Trout



SUNDAY, April 28, 2024, 9am

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Scriptures: Acts 8:26-40;

Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21;

John 15:1-8

Click [HERE](#) to watch live.

04/28 Bulletin

SUNDAY, May 5, 2024, 9am

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Scriptures: Acts 10:44-48;

Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6;

John 15: 9-17

Click [HERE](#) to watch live.

05/05 Bulletin

THANK YOU TO OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	April 28	May 5	May 12	May 19 Pentecost	May 26 Holy Trinity	June 2	June 9
Asst. Min.	Keith G.	MaryJane	Denise C.	Steve C.	MaryJane M.	Nick C.	Denise C.
Lector	Wendy C.	Denise C.	Denise C.	Emily B.	Steve H.	Wendy C.	McKenna S.
Ushers	Mike S. Darrell M.	Tim M. Mike P.	Tim M. Mike P.	Tim M. Mike P.	Tim M. Mike P.	Drew K. Mike S.	Drew K. Mike S.
Counters	Nick C. Judy C.	Tim M. Steve C.	Tim M. Jan A.	Tim M. Steve C.	Tim M. Jan A.	Joan K. Trudy G.	Joan K. Steve C.
Altar s/u	Sherry R.	Keith G.	Tim M.	Amanda	Sherry R.	Deb S.	Deb S.
Altar c/u	Sherry R.	MaryJane	Denise C.	Denise C.	Sherry R.	Deb S.	Deb S.
Lock-up	Nick C.	Tim M.	Tim M.	Tim M.	Tim M.	Joan K.	Joan K.
Musician	Denise C.	Denise C.	Deb R.	Denise C.	Denise C.	Denise C.	Deb R.
Tech	Nick C. / Doug B.						

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School: We are continuing with *The Wired Word*. Come join in the lively discussions every Sunday between 10:30-11:30am. Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate are available.

Children's Sunday School will meet on May 19.



BABY BOTTLE BLAST We will once again be filling baby bottles with coins, cash or checks for the [Capital Area Pregnancy Center](#). Bottles will be available in church on Mother's Day, May 12. We will be collecting filled bottles until Father's Day, June 16.

On **Pentecost Sunday, May 19**, we are reviving the "celebration of community life"! If you have any milestones (graduations, new jobs, new homes, new child/grandchild etc.) to report from this past year, please let Wendy or Pastor Gwenn know (via email).

Also, we are having a potluck brunch following worship. Please sign-up in church to bring a dish (breakfast casserole, coffee cake, muffins, etc.) or contact Sherry R. with what you will bring. Weather permitting, we will be in the pavilion (there are outlets for crockpots, etc.).

Don't forget to wear red!

A hearty THANK YOU to all who helped with the services and luncheon for Arla Hunter on Wednesday, April 17. Arla's family was very appreciative of your support and kind words of comfort during this difficult time.

UPDATED FACILITIES USE POLICY & APPLICATION

Council recently approved revisions to our facilities use policy to encompass necessary items for renting the kitchen commercially. We no longer have a separate agreement for the pavilion. You can read this new policy [HERE](#). Everyone wishing to rent the pavilion, kitchen, or another area of the church, must first complete and submit an application, found [HERE](#).



Wine & Cheese
Wednesday

Wine & Cheese Wednesdays is coming soon! If you have any topics that you'd like to discuss, or suggestions for speakers, please see Pastor Gwenn.

ST. PAUL'S AT THE SENATORS! Faith Night at the Harrisburg Senators is Friday, June 21, at 7pm. Please sign up in church or [here](#) to indicate your interest so we know if we qualify for discounted tickets. Contact Sherry Reynolds with any questions.

St. Paul's members are invited to the installation of the Rev. Jennifer Richards as pastor of St. Paul's, New Cumberland and Big Spring United, Newville. The service will be held on Sunday, May 5, 11:00 am at St. Paul's, 5th & Bridge Streets, New Cumberland, with a luncheon to follow. Please let Pastor Gwenn know if you plan to attend.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

April

27 Stew Trout
30 Jordan Lumby

May

6 Kenneth Getz
8 Addison Herman
8 Robert E. Diehl
8 Logan Hunter
8 Darrell McMillan
9 Anita Cox

May

10 Howard Locke
11 Heidi Getz
12 Michelle Thorn
15 Gary Radabaugh
15 Kathryn Getz
21 Trudy Getz
28 Cheyenne Cain
28 Spencer Verchick

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

May 7 Joan & Drew Kugler
May 12 Denise & Steve Casella
May 18 Miste & Lance Diehl



The loved ones of Arla H., Andrea G., Cindy H.,
Kody G., Jay U., Jerry J., Doug E.,
Jordan B., Christian, Naoma C., Holly, Andy D.,
Trinity Lutheran - Camp Hill

*Please let the church office know if anyone you've placed on the
prayer list can be removed.*

ONGOING LONG-TERM PRAYER REQUESTS

Elizabeth D., Sheree H., Janie S.,
Marge & Jerry, Terrie J., Boden R.



Next Council Meeting: 05/13, 2pm

Click the button below for documents from the most recent Council meeting.

Council Meeting Materials

If you have any news you would like to share in the Epistle, please email or call the church office.



Remember to mention St. Paul's ID #10151 when you donate clothing, shoes, accessories, electronics, toys and household goods.



AN EASY WAY OF GIVING

Scan the QR code with your phone to quickly and easily give to the church.



https://www.gocomics.com/half-full/2014/03/24?utm_source=pinterest&utm_medium=socialmarketing&utm_campaign=social-pin



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
The Reverend Gwenn L. Trout, Interim Pastor
Ann M. Gottlieb, Office Manager (office hours T/Th 9am-3pm)
Nicholas Cekovich, Director of Music
Jack Yinger, Sexton



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Copyright (C) 2024 St. Paul's Lutheran Church. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
6839 Wertzville Rd
Enola, PA 17025-1033

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

