

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
15733 Dover Road
Upperco, Maryland 21155
Sixth fth Sunday after Pentecost
July 12, 2020



Hymn #533 - Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty (vs 1 & 5)

**Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place, filled with so-lace, light, and grace!**

**Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in-deed;
May I undisturbed draw near thee while thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows; here is balm for all our woes.**

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Prayer Concerns and Announcements

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹² For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. The word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart. **Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸ "Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."



Hymn # 512 - Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

**Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away. When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.**

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Sermon: 'Good Soil?'

Prayers of the Church

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

Gracious God, your word has been sown in many ways and places.

We pray for missionaries and newly planted congregations around the world. Inspire us by their witness to the faith we share.

The mountains and hills burst into song and the trees and fields clap their hands in praise. We pray for the birds and animals who make their home in the trees, and for lands stripped bare by deforestation. Empower us to sustainably use what you have given.

We pray for our nation's leaders. Increase their desire for justice and equality. We pray for our enemies. Bridge the chasms that divide us and guide authorities to a deep and lasting peace.

Abide with and care for all who are in need especially those whose names we speak with our voices (*pause for quiet prayer*) in our hearts (*again pause...*) and whose names fill the list of ongoing prayer concerns of this community. For those who are doubting, renew faith. For those who are worrying, provide release. For those who are struggling, ease burdens. For those in fear, give hope.

Revive your church in this place. Nourish and nurture the seed you have planted, that we might grow as disciples. Replace what has been depleted. Sustain our ministries and shine in this place that we might notice the ways your love transforms our lives.

Eternal God, we give you thanks for the lives of all who have died. Comfort us in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

The Blessing

Sending

Hymn #550 – On What Has Now Been Sown (vs. 1 & 3)

**On what has now been sown your blessing Lord, bestow; the
Pow'r is yours alone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in
grace the harvest raise, and yours alone shall be the praise.**

**Oh, grant that each of us, now met before you here, may
Meet together thus when you and yours appear, and follow
You to heav'n, our home, E'en so, A-men! Lord Jesus, come!**



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Please keep the following individuals in your prayers

Members: Helen, Mark, Calvin & Mary, Hazel, Ruth, Jen, Maidie, Vivian, Colton, Bud, Carolyn & John, Carliana, Shriver, Andy, Hannah, Denise, Glenys, Matthew, Nadine, Moore family, Neuheisel family, Gene, and all homebound members.

Family & Friends: Jerry, Bernie & Chris, Nunan Family, Mike, Chuck, Darlene, Frank, Erin, Clyde, Kary, Gloria, Jim & Barbara, Kevin, Jack & Elinor, Liz, Heidi, Peggy, Laura, Bruce & Jamie, Karen, Caroline, Mary Jane, Sonia, Addison, Carol, family & friends of Carroll, those facing job loss, and those in broken relationships.

Weekly Offering

- Donate online via Tithe.ly
- Send offering by mail:
15773 Dover Road
Upperco, MD 21155



St Paul's Lutheran Church Upperco
Upperco, MD 21155

Give: 0.00

Amount must be at least 1.00

To: Current

Please Choose
Current
Building
Capital Campaign
Benevolence
Youth Gathering
Vacation Bible School (VBS)

First Name Last Name

Card Bank

Give \$0.00

Powered by Tithe.ly online giving

VBS Donations

VBS will be held virtually this year. While it may not be our traditional VBS program, it will be interactive and FUN! Any monies donated help us to offset costs for the program materials.

- [Donate online via Tithe.ly: select VBS on the drop down](#)
- Send offering by mail:
ATTN: VBS, 15773 Dover Road, Upperco, MD 21155

Coffee & Conversation Fellowship

Please join us VIRTUALLY this Sunday, July 12th at **10:00am** via Zoom!

Bring a cup of coffee or tea and join in - LIVE with your church family. Pastor Carl will lead in a conversation & fellowship.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87468875951?pwd=RG9zYW5rNmRhNzVnRVNISytNMllpdz09>

Meeting ID: 874 6887 5951

Password: 424919

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,87468875951#,,,,0#,,424919# US

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US



If you are using a tablet or phone, please download the Zoom app. first.

Invite your children, grandchildren, friends & neighbors -
All are welcome!

Know someone whose church isn't going to hold their VBS -
they are welcomed to join us!

St Paul's Lutheran Church
Virtual
Vacation Bible School



WHO:

Families with kids ages Pre-K to Grade 5

WHAT:

A free online and interactive VBS to learn about Moses and the Israelites journey in the desert.

Fun activities including music, storytime, crafts and games EVERY DAY!

All materials provided.

HOW:

Register now—while supplies last! Go to www.StPaulsUpperco.org for registration form and more information.

Any questions, email VBS@StPaulsUpperco.org.

WHEN:

VBS videos posted each morning Monday July 20 - July 24.
(remains available online thru August)

**MEET MOSES AND
PICK UP YOUR MATERIALS!**

Church parking lot on Thursday, July 16 from 6-7pm
or Friday, July 17 from 3-4pm

Let us know if you cannot pick up on either of these dates



Return to in-Person Worship

Great news St. Paul's! We are ready to gather for worship again!

Outdoor In-Person Worship Begins July 19th at 9:00am

- Services will be held in the Pavilion.
- Services may be cancelled due to inclement weather.
- A check-in person will perform a brief temperature check as you arrive.
- Seating is 6 feet apart (families can sit together).
 - Use the picnic tables in the pavilion
 - Bring your own lawn chair to sit in the grassy area if you prefer
- Please wear a mask at all times.
- Hand sanitizer will be available.
- Bulletins will be emailed to you prior to the service for you to print, if desired.
- There will be a safe and no-contact communion and offering.

We will still offer the online recorded services each week for those that can't / shouldn't attend the in-person services.

Please choose what is best for you, your health, your risk level, and your family.

Online services : <http://stpaulsupperco.org>
or <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOvnEf8eHah01BMJZlItYrQ>

Please stay home if you are feeling ill.

Immediately contact the church if you test positive for COVID after recently attending a service, so we may implement steps for rapid contact tracing.

For a while, it's going to look very different from the worship service we left back in March, but we are excited to take these first steps toward resuming the in-person worship experience we have been missing.

- Please review this video <https://youtu.be/SwfOdgDv3ZQ> prior to attending outdoor worship if you can (not required to join us).
- Click here to [view the Council Letter](#) and full details of resuming services.



NESAP Pantry Needs

- canned pasta (beefaroni, spaghetti O's, etc)
- pudding
- Jello
- cereal
- breakfast bars/pop tarts
- oatmeal
- jelly
- Hamburger or tuna Helper
- rice
- canned fruit
- canned beans (pinto, black beans, etc.)
- canned carrots
- canned potatoes
- canned mixed vegetables
- canned beets
- juice (apple, etc.)
- canned chicken or salmon
- brownie mix
- soup
- bar soap
- dish detergent
- laundry detergent
- diapers size 5 & 6
- wipes