

# ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Maryville, TN

## THE GOOD NEWS Special Edition



### A Message from Pastor Rick:

It has been a difficult couple of months for all us. By the grace of God, we have not had anyone infected with the COVID-19 virus. This pandemic has still forced us to change how we do things and will continue to shape how we operate as a society. How we do church has changed. I jokingly tell people that I never thought I would become a televangelist. Preaching to you through a camera is strange experience for me. I really miss seeing your smiling faces and hearing your laughs when I make an attempt at humor. Ministry is still happening, but in a different way. We look forward to when we can be together again, but will do what we can to share the Good News in our current situation.

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**Live Stream Worship**  
**Sunday Morning**  
10:30 am

### Contact Us

**Pastor:** *The Rev. Rick Ohsiek*

**Phone:** 865-982-4285

**Email:** [office@stpaulmaryville.org](mailto:office@stpaulmaryville.org)

**Web:** [www.stpaulmaryville.org](http://www.stpaulmaryville.org)

**Facebook:** [@stpaulmaryville](https://www.facebook.com/stpaullutheranmaryville)

**Church Office Hours:**  
Mon-Thurs Limited



## PASTOR AND CHURCH COUNCIL

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In spite of the bad news, I have seen several rays of sunshine that give me hope for the future

**Here are some things I have noticed you and others doing:**

- ◆ making masks for friends, families, and those in in hospitals
- ◆ reaching out to others by phone to keep and strengthen relationships
- ◆ volunteers willing to run errands or deliver items to those who cannot leave their home
- ◆ families spending more quality time together
- ◆ neighbors taking time to talk to each other
- ◆ an increased commitment to daily prayers and devotions
- ◆ a nicer and more polite society when we are near each other

God can make good things grow out of bad situations. I really want this sheltering time to end, but I also hope we learn something from the time that we have been apart. Maybe we can remember the good changes we have made and try to keep them when our lives get a little closer to normal.

Peace,  
Pastor Rick

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### Greetings, St. Paul,

I hope all of you are staying safe and healthy!

I am now closing up my internship at Bethany Lutheran in Cherry Hills Village, Colorado. It has been such a journey of growth and discernment, and I am thankful for every minute of it. Learning how to do ministry and stay connected in the middle of a pandemic has been no small feat!

On Friday, April 24th I had my Approval Interview via Zoom (another first); this is the final interview in the candidacy process, and it went well! I am officially approved for assignment and ordination in the ELCA! This means I have a lot of paperwork to do in preparing for being assigned to a Synod and then interviewing at churches, but it's an amazing feeling to see the beginning of a new chapter unfolding.

As always I am so thankful for your continued prayers and support. St. Paul is still my home in many ways, and I am grateful for the ways that you all encouraged my call to ministry from a young age. Ethan and I plan to spend some time in Tennessee this summer as we prepare for our next steps, so hopefully I will see you all soon!

Grace and Peace,  
Rachel Patterson

# Congratulations Graduates



*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD,  
plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*  
Jeremiah 29:11

Emily Helena Kaufman: Majored in Communication and minored in creative writing and history. She



graduated with the honors societies, Phi Alpha Theta for history, Lambda Pi Eta for Communication, and Alpha Lambda Delta for freshman performance. In her time as a student, she also participated in Shakespeare society and wrote for the communication magazine and had a poem published in the Wittenberg University Literary Review.

Her future plans include developing a writing portfolio and applying for screenwriting programs to get her Master's in Fine Arts for screenwriting. She hopes to write for television someday, but in the meantime, she writes short stories and poems that she will submit for online publication. She hopes her writing will inspire viewers and readers someday!

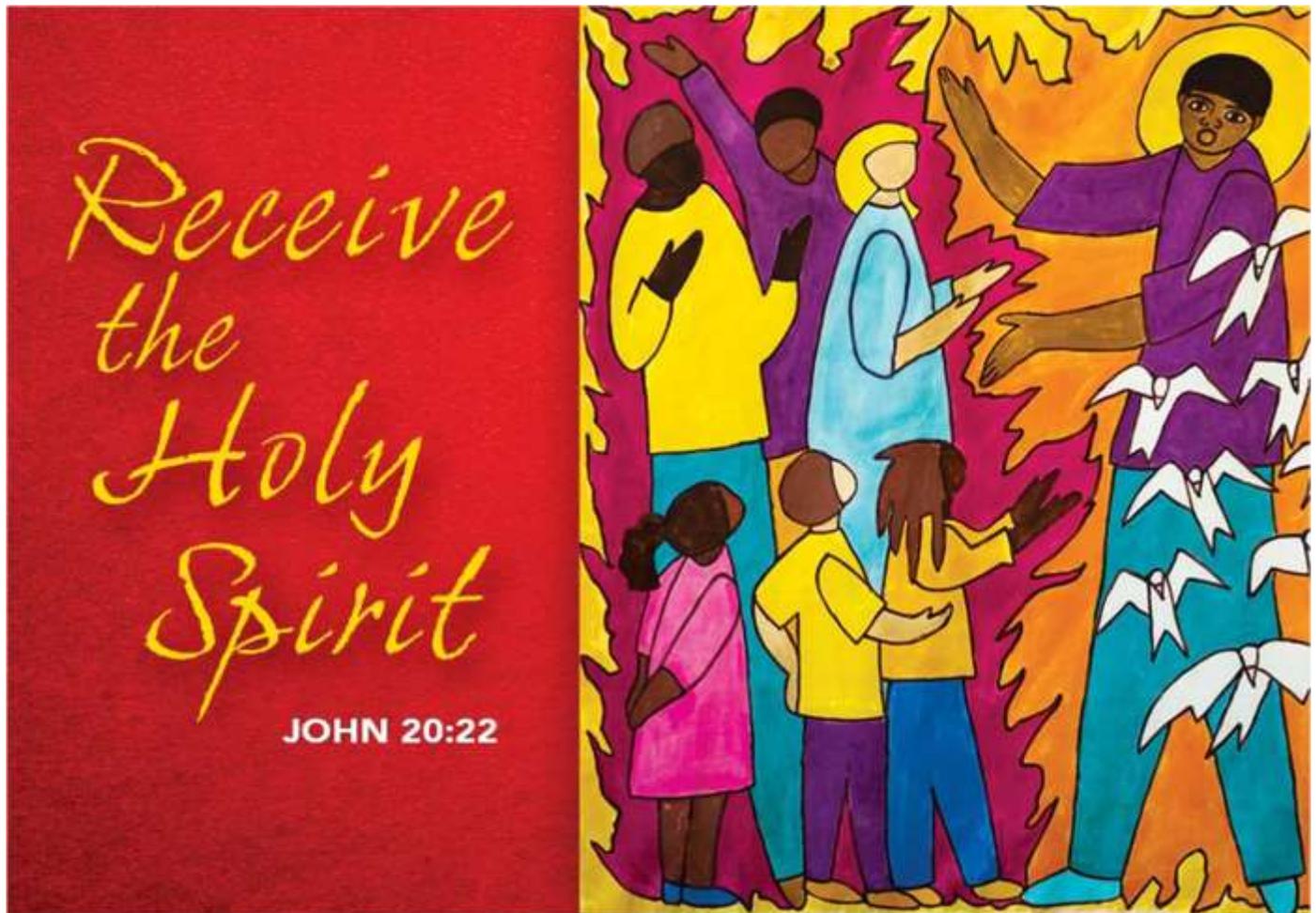


Jenna Kristine Burts:

Graduated May 2020 with a Masters in Elementary Education through East Tennessee State University. She has accepted a 2nd grade teaching position at High Point Elementary School in Bristol, Va.

She will be moving to the Bristol area this summer and will begin her teaching career this coming fall and could not be more excited!





## PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 31, 2020

Join us for live stream worship  
at 10:30am

Print and color the picture on the next page and share it on our Facebook page that Sunday. *To share, simply go to our Facebook page and click on "write a post" click on the camera icon, select the photo then click post. We will also have a post that morning that will ask you to share your picture.*

**READING CHALLENGE** - Read the book of Acts before Pentecost Sunday

### Commentary on Acts 2:1-21 from

<https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Preaching#notes>

Once again Luke presents a narrative to convey meaning. The fire and wind, associated with God's presence on Mount Sinai, are now experienced in the assembly of believers, and miraculous events, seen in the ministry of Jesus, occur now in the church. Acts is moving the church into all the ends of the earth, and Acts 2 begins this multilingual proclamation. Luke cites the apocalyptic vision of the prophet Joel to authenticate the power of God among the leaders of the church. Although some Christians who practice glossolalia tie

their ecstatic speech to this narrative, Luke referred instead to actual languages that were spoken in the Greco-Roman world.

### Images in the Readings

Anthropologists describe fire as one of the markers of the human species. For tens of thousands of years, humans gathered around fire for light, warmth, protection, community, and better food.

Many passages in the Bible liken God to fire. The Holy Spirit of God appeared on Sinai in flames of fire, which on Pentecost appeared on the forehead of each believer. Moses experienced God in fire; through fire the Israelites presented offerings to God; God led the people through the wilderness with a pillar of fire.

Seraphim are fire-spirits, extensions of the divine. Yet fire is also a sign of divine judgment: the angel in Eden hides the tree of life from humanity with a sword of fire, and John the Baptist predicts that fire will consume the chaff. Fire both occasions human life and has the power to destroy.

Think fire, think God.

The Hebrew noun *ruah* can be translated into English as spirit, breath, or wind. Spirit is the most amorphous of these words. In Christian theology, the Spirit that we experience is the Spirit of the risen Christ, a spirit of service, a spirit of love, a spirit of resurrection beyond death.



## SERVING THE COMMUNITY



### Update from the Family Promise Director: Caroline Lamar

Our church rotation is currently on pause until further notice. Our families are safely housed and they have access to the staff. We will ensure they have food and other basic necessities.

#### *How You Can Help*

There are many ways you can continue to support Family Promise during this time of crisis, even though our church rotation remains on pause. Below are just a few of the ways you can help!

- Check the “Immediate Needs” page on our website. We update it often with the most pressing needs for our client families. <https://blountfamilypromise.org/>
- Purchase groceries or other basic necessities (diapers, etc) for our client families. Our Day Center is currently closed to visitors, but please call 865-233-4737 to arrange a food delivery.
- Donate gift cards for grocery stores, restaurants, and gas stations. These cards help us to continue to provide for our client families in this time of crisis.
- Make a monetary donation. You can give securely online on our [website](#) or you can mail a check to P.O. Box 447, Maryville, TN 37802. Every dollar makes a difference!
- Send a note of encouragement to our families. This is a difficult time for all of us, especially for the families we serve. Consider sending cards or notes to encourage them! You can mail them to P.O. Box 4457, Maryville, TN 37802 and we will distribute them!



### Good Neighbors of Blount County Update

In light of the COVID-19 and out of an abundance of caution, we are closed to in-person visits until further notice. However, we still are making every attempt to assist our neighbors via phone interviews during our normal office hours.

Mondays and Wednesdays 9am – 1pm and Fridays 9am – 3pm.

If you or someone you know is in temporary crisis and needs rent or utility assistance, please call for an appointment to speak with a volunteer coach.

Good Neighbors Contacts—Phone: 865-681-5420 or email [contact@goodneighborsbc.org](mailto:contact@goodneighborsbc.org).



**Community Food Connection**  
of Blount County, Inc.

*The*

<https://cfcblount.org/>

*Community Food Connection of Blount County is a nonprofit, volunteer organization dedicated to reducing food insecurity for citizens in Blount County and helping individuals and families improve their quality of life.*

The CFC continues to offer free groceries to Blount County residents in need every two weeks. At this time they are doing curbside pick up only.

#### **Hours Open:**

**Monday, Wednesday, & Saturday: 10am-2pm**



*Christ caring for people through people*

**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**

### **LISTENING EAR**

**Your Stephen Ministry team** has been trained to be good listeners who keep what is said confidential. If you are having a hard time with the stress of the current situation and need someone to talk to, your Stephen Ministers stand ready to listen.

Call any one of them for conversation:

Charlie Malin 865-216-0107

Heather Wright 865-748-5025

James McMillion 865-738-7408 (evenings and weekends)

Judy Krull 865-803-9096

Carolyn Speck 865-696-5829

# SYNOD NEWS

Join us on May 21, 7pm EDT

**"Becoming the body of Christ  
where all bodies are valued"**

A conversation around the ELCA's  
resolution to condemn  
White Supremacy

Sign up at  
**ELCA-SES.org**



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

*Chosen.*  
**VIRTUAL  
SESLYO  
ASSEMBLY!**



**SATURDAY JUNE 20,  
2020**  
WATCH SESYOUTH.ORG  
FOR MORE DETAILS ON  
REGISTRATION.  
WE WILL BE VOTING ON A NEW  
BOARD AND HAVING  
DISCUSSIONS!

## AFFIRM 2020 is going VIRTUAL!!!!

**Saturday, June 13, 2020**, we will gather online for a virtual form of AFFIRM that will last a few hours. We are working on plans to create large and small group activities, worship, devotions, and more, over ZOOM.

We want a space where we can gather together. Share our thoughts and feelings about what a strange few months this has been, and see where the Spirit leads the conversations. Registration will be available by May 15, 2020.





**Dear friends,**

I must admit I am getting a bit eager to get out of my house and be around people again. I am sure many of you feel the same way.

We are social creatures. We thrive in an environment of togetherness, of sharing our thoughts, ideas, and experiences with others.

We miss the way things were a few short weeks ago before

COVID-19 entered our lives. We have witnessed drastic changes to our lives - lost jobs, lost incomes, and loss of normalcy. We have watched as thousands of people have died from this disease. We have watched dedicated healthcare workers laboring long hours caring for victims. We have watched with sadness as many have died alone in intensive care units, isolated from loved ones. These are tough times, but they are not the end of the world.

**If you are feeling lonely, depressed or just down in spirit;**

- ◆ Reach out to a friend, loved one, or your church family.
- ◆ Find solace in reading the Bible,
- ◆ Pray,
- ◆ Exercise,
- ◆ Or Meditate
- ◆ Share your joys with others
- ◆ Give a call to someone you haven't seen or spoken to recently.

As more businesses and activities are opening, use caution when going out.

Remember to practice social distancing, wear a mask, and wash your hands frequently.

Remember that God is with us on this journey and through Him, we will prevail.

Stay safe and stay healthy!

Warren Bielenberg,  
Council President

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The St. Paul Church Council meets monthly on the third Monday ~ 7:00pm

**Warren Bielenberg -President**

[web9272@msn.com](mailto:web9272@msn.com)

**Merl Krull – Vice President**

[merlinkrull@gmail.com](mailto:merlinkrull@gmail.com)

**Brooke Nowak - Council Secretary -**

[ballerinab183@hotmail.com](mailto:ballerinab183@hotmail.com)

**Susan Ward - Treasurer**

[splctreasurer7@gmail.com](mailto:splctreasurer7@gmail.com)

**Teena Conrady -** [c\\_teena@hotmail.com](mailto:c_teena@hotmail.com)

**Zach Gordon -** [zgordon@k12.com](mailto:zgordon@k12.com)

**David Silseth -** [drsilset@gmail.com](mailto:drsilset@gmail.com)

## Church Council



**Beth Drane -** [Tenneliz2000@yahoo.com](mailto:Tenneliz2000@yahoo.com)

**Ed Martin -** [ermartin81@yahoo.com](mailto:ermartin81@yahoo.com)

**Heather Wright –** [heatherlewright@gmail.com](mailto:heatherlewright@gmail.com)