



The Epistle

SUMMER NEWSLETTER | JULY/AUGUST 2018

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Check us out on the web:

www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

Have a say in how we spend the day!

God's Work Our Hands is a day of service designated by the ELCA. It will take place on September 9, 2018. What a wonderful way to start the fall, the new school year and all the other amazing events until the end of the year!

The Congregation Life Committee would like your input into St. Paul's Day of Service. On August 19, 2018 following the church service, you will get to vote on one of these three projects.

Project One: A Chemo Care Bag. The bag will contain sanitizer, hard candy, a Port pillow for the seat belt, tissues and other items. We will make the Port pillows, assemble the bags and deliver to Chemotherapy Sites.

Project Two: Police Appreciation Bag. The bag will contain drinks, healthy snacks, sanitizer, tissues and notes of thankfulness for their service. We will assemble the bags, write the notes and deliver to State Troopers, Sheriff Department and Police Stations around Frederick County.

Project Three: Homeless Kits. We will stuff socks with sample sized shampoos, soap, toothpaste and brush and various other items. We will stuff the socks and request members to take them with them, leave them in their car and distribute them as they see someone in need.

We hope you will prayerfully consider which of these options you wish to participate. The method of voting will be discussed in the days leading up to the 19th of August. Thank you for your support.

Outdoor Worship & Congregation Picnic

Sunday, August 26th St Paul's will have worship at the Walkersville Community Park at the end of Kenneth Drive. Worship will begin at our regular time, 9:30am, under the pavilion. After the service, join in a time of fun, food, fellowship and friendly horseshoe competition at the annual picnic. The Congregational Life committee will provide fried chicken & salads. Members are asked to bring a dessert to share. Bring a chair for your comfort if you wish.

All are welcome!

To allow for accurate headcount for food purchase please RSVP by signing up at church or by email to wendyb117@comcast.net

SYNOD ASSEMBLY Resolution

New resolution to address opioid and addiction

At Synod Assembly, a resolution was passed for a Synod Opioid and Addiction Team that will provide faith-based scientifically sound education and resources to the congregations of this synod. The Team would address topics related to addiction prevention, active addiction and recovery support for opioid and other substance abuse addictions; as well as worship resources for Opioid Crisis Sunday on October 14, 2018.

If you are interested in joining this team whose work will begin this summer, please contact Sara Yotter at 410-266-5691.

Women's Group

Our monthly gatherings
will resume in
September.

Please feel free to submit any
comments or suggestions for
future meetings to Candy
Swet, crswet@gmail.com.



Thanks and
we look
forward to
seeing to you!

Colossians 3:23

*"Whatever you do work at it
with all your heart as working
for the Lord not for men."*

Help!

If you like to garden and would like to help the church, please consider helping us to do the weeding. You would just have to give 1 hour every other week. Your help would be greatly appreciated.
Candy and Chuck Swet,
crswet@gmail.com or
301 304 5238

Directory Update

We need your assistance to update our records!

We are in the process of updating our church directory. If you have not already done so, please look over the draft copy that is in the front of the church and mark any corrections, deletions, or additions. Also, please initial your entry so we know it has been reviewed, even if you make no changes. Thanks!

**Have you ever wanted to serve
dinner at the Soup Kitchen?**

Now is your chance! A group from St Paul's will be serving dinner at the Frederick Soup Kitchen on July 22nd. We will be meeting at the back of the church at 4pm to load up and head out. We will set up the kitchen and dining area and begin food service promptly at 5:30pm. We should be returning to the church by 7:30pm after we clean up. If you are interested in being a part of this group, please sign up on the side bulletin board. You will need to tie back any long hair, wear closed toed shoes and be willing to be God's hands to those who are hungry in our community. A Thrivent Action card will be providing the food for the day but if you would like to contribute brownies for dessert, you may sign up for just food donation on that sign up sheet as well. Any questions please see Belinda.

Old Fashioned Hymn Sing & Ice Cream Social

**August 5th 7pm
In the Parish Hall**

Please join us for an old fashioned hymn sing and ice cream social on Sunday, August 5th at 7pm. We will sing along with oldies and goodies. Bring your friends and family for a relaxing fun evening of fellowship, music & ice cream!!

Pastor's Pen

For our summer newsletter I would like to share some observations from this year's Delaware Maryland Synod Assembly, held in Hunt Valley, MD on May 31 to June 2. I had the privilege of attending the assembly with St. Paul's representative, Mr. Gary Wachter. Gary attended assembly all three days, while I attended only two days, since I spent June 2 in Walkersville blessing bikes as part of St. Paul's Strawberry Festival.

Throughout the assembly we heard reference to a new book by Rev. Tod Bolsinger entitled, "Canoeing the Mountains". The book tells the story of two American adventurers, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. Remember learning about those fellows in high school? They were appointed by Thomas Jefferson to explore the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase in 1804. And the expedition was built on a completely false expectation. Lewis and Clark believed, like almost every other white person of their day, that the unexplored west contained the same exact geography as the familiar east. So they packed up all their gear, got in their canoes and headed up the Missouri River. They carried their canoes up Lemhi Pass, and instead of the river they expected to see, the river they assumed would carry them to the Pacific Ocean, they found the Rocky Mountains. They needed to exchange their canoes for horses and adapt to an "off the map" kind of life.



I found the story fascinating, and without reading the book (but I certainly plan to read the book) I see the story as a parable for my life as a pastor. When I attended seminary almost half a century ago I was trained in all the skills necessary for supporting faith in a Christian culture (remember when newspapers contained daily Bible readings? (remember newspapers?)). Accordingly, I was highly trained as a teacher to provide Christian education to children and adults that attended church, a liturgist to lead Christian worship services in a culture that "went to church" on Sundays and a pastoral care giver to provide Christian counsel and support most often to church goers but once in a great while to people not affiliated with any particular church.

That culture has changed dramatically, and the challenge for pastors and parishioners today is not so much to perfect teaching skills or sing the notes on key in worship services as it is to reach people with the good news of Jesus Christ in a culture where 23% of the population now has no religious affiliation. The territory we expected to see in 2018. We are "off the map".

What do we need to take with us in this new territory? What do we need to let go of? That's not to say all the skills I learned in seminary and all the cherished faith, wisdom and spiritual formation you and I received in church are to be thrown away. Heaven forbid we lose this treasure given to us. Indeed, the faith, leadership, skills you and I learned "on the map" are what we must take with us as we venture "off the map".

I find myself asking questions like, "Do I have faith enough in Jesus to venture into our new culture, seeing it as an 'adventure' more than as a trial or adversity?", "Do I love Jesus enough to risk failure as I myself adapt my leadership perspectives and skills?", and "How much must I be willing to let go of so that my hands are empty enough to grab the things God might want to give me, things that I cannot yet see?"

Accordingly, at Synod Assembly we also saw evidence of our synod continuing to do some things well that it has always done well. A progress report was made on three new mission starts in our synod (Global Peace Multicultural Fellowship which meets at Evangelical Lutheran Church in Frederick, "The Slate Project" – which is an online and face to face church community that meets in the Episcopal Cathedral in Baltimore, and "The Church on the Square", a joint mission start with the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland). We heard a progress report on "Forward in Faith", our synod's commitment to the ELCA's national campaign. The congregations of our synod adopted "Forward in Faith" a few years ago. Our synod signed on to provide \$2.5 million dollars by 2018. Guess what? So far, we have received \$3.2 million dollars!!! We also dealt with several resolutions. We adopted a resolution for a Synod Opioid and Addiction Team. We debated but did not adopt a resolution on gun violence.

On the Calendar:



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Walkersville, hosts its 24th Annual

GERMAN DINNER

Saturday, Sept. 22, 2018, 3:00-7:00 pm

at the Walkersville Vol. Fire Co., 79 West Frederick St., Walkersville, MD

"ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BUFFET"

Adults \$17—Children age 5-12 \$6—Under 5 Free—Carry-out available—\$1.00 extra

MENU:

•Sauerbraten	•Spaetzle	•Stringbean Salad
•Bratwurst	•Dumplings	•Cucumber Salad
•Bauernwurst	•Red Cabbage	•Applesauce
•Weisswurst	•Sauerkraut	•Bread & Rolls

Dessert: Bundt and assorted cakes

Beverages: Coffee and Iced Tea included;

German and seasonal beer and wine available for purchase.

•Good Food!
•LIVE German Music! Provided by:
Frederick's Allgemeine Fest Kapelle
•Gemütlichkeit!

Live Oompha Band

Craft and Jewelry Table

Bake Sale

Square

VISA

DISCOVER

For more information, call Russ & Amy Mildenstein (301) 845-2037 Home (301) 646-3304 Cell

UPCOMING EVENTS—more details inside

Sun. July 22nd Dinner @ the Soup Kitchen

Mon. July 23rd – Fri. July 27th 6-8pm VBS
VeggieTales' The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything!

Sun. August 5th 7pm in the Parish Hall
Hymn Sing & Ice Cream Social

Sun. August 26th 9:30am
Worship & Picnic at the Park

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, September 2nd
Bless the Back Packs

Sunday, September 9th
Rally Day– God's Work, Our Hands Day

Community Corner

News from Glade Valley Community Services (GVCS)

FOOD BANK UPDATE:

Ed Chaney has delivered 59 food items so far this summer to the Food Bank on our behalf. Summer month donations can be slim if you have the opportunity to pick up a few things to donate consider giving one of the following items that they need: *spaghetti sauce* peanut butter* hamburger/chicken helpers* boxed potatoes* canned fruit*

Your donations go directly to our neighbors in need.

School Supply Drive

If you are able to donate, please check out the list of needed school supplies. Bring your purchased items to church, placing them under the benevolence tree in the back of the overflow area by August 12th. Donations will be taken and sorted in time for distribution the following weekend.

If you have knowledge of a family who may need this assistance encourage them to attend the distribution on August 19th from 11am until 2pm at the Food Bank. They must bring student's ID, report card or school schedule for identification purposes. Registration is not required.

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| ⇒ Safety scissors | ⇒ Composition books (wide ruled) |
| ⇒ #2 pencils | ⇒ 3-ring binders (1 in assorted colors) |
| ⇒ Pens | ⇒ Subject dividers |
| ⇒ Colored pencils | ⇒ Folders with brads (assorted colors) |
| ⇒ Colored markers | ⇒ Compass & protractor |
| ⇒ Highlighters | ⇒ Index cards |
| ⇒ Crayons (16 or 24ct) | ⇒ Erasers |
| ⇒ Dry Erase Markers (low odor) | ⇒ Zipper pencil pouches |
| ⇒ Loose leaf paper (wide or college ruled) | ⇒ Glue Sticks (fat or regular size) NO bottled glue |
| ⇒ Spiral notebooks (single subject) | ⇒ Back packs |
| ⇒ Spiral notebooks (multi-subject) | |

Quilting Angels

Quilting Angels vacation July & August.

Our special "Quilting Angel" has just finished sewing together 7 (maybe 8) tops for us. Hopefully all of these will have backing and batting on all of them and ready for final tying for our next scheduled get together **Wednesday, September 19th** at Margaret's home, beginning at 9:30am.

Save Sept. 19th for a few hours helping us.
It would be much appreciated!
Margaret Powers—Quilt Coordinator

Godspeed for Tori

Tori Valcarcel will be leaving mid-August for her year-long mission service with the ELCA's Young Adults for Global Mission. Tori will be serving in Southern Africa and we look forward to hearing all about her experience throughout the year.

Please join us as we send Tori off with a special blessing and God's speed during worship on August 12th. There is still time, if you are able to help financially support her ministry please check out her webpage: <http://support.elca.org/goto/support-tori>