

# The Epistle

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | ST PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | NOVEMBER 2018

## All Saints Sunday– November 4<sup>th</sup>

Join us for worship on November 4<sup>th</sup> as we remember those who joined the Lord this past year. We will light a candle and toll the bell as we read each name; honoring their earthly life and commending them to God.

## **Veteran's Day, November 11<sup>th</sup> —ROLE CALL!!**

St. Paul's would like to honor our veterans and active service members of any branch of the military, in the most complete and accurate way. We are seeking the most up to date information on all of our congregation members who are serving or have served. We would like to include their name, branch, years of service, location if desired. Please contact the office at 301-845-4600 or email [saintpaulslc@comcast.net](mailto:saintpaulslc@comcast.net).

Then help us honor their service to our great nation on November 11<sup>th</sup> during the worship service.

Later that same day, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm, the town of Walkersville is holding a Veteran's Day Service. The service will be held at Memorial Park at the intersection of Penn. Ave & Main St.

## THANKOFFERING SUNDAY Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>



During worship we will hear from our Quilting Angels and offer a blessing for their handiwork. A collection will be taken to help with the transportation of the quilts to their destination. Find out where they are headed this year! Last year they blessed a community in Florida.

## Church Events

- Nov. 4th All Saint's Sunday
- Nov. 6th Congregational Life Mtg
- Nov. 9th Yard Sale donation drop off
- Nov. 10th Yard Sale 8am-2pm
- Nov. 11th Veteran's Day
- Nov. 12th Finance Committee
- Nov. 13th Council
- Nov. 16th-18th Confirmation Retreat
- Nov. 18th Thankoffering Sunday
- Nov. 22nd Thanksgiving Day
- Nov. 25th Stocking Stuffing Day
- Nov. 26th Worship & Arts Meeting
- Nov. 30th Christkindl Market  
Preview 5:00-8:00 pm



# Christkindl Market

## ~~ Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> 10am until 5pm ~~

The Walkersville Christkindl Market is coming up very quickly. The Historical Society has put a lot of effort into this event. The High School Chorus will be providing entertainment. Mrs. Claus will be reading stories. Santa's elves are full of mischief and energy! They will be spotted all over town.

We are using this event again as a fundraiser for St. Paul's. We are selling Bratwurst, streudel and ice cream and warm gluhwein without the wine. The Parish Hall will be the location of booths that we will sell German candy, stollen, cookies and crafts. We need you to help with this event. We could use Christmas cookies for small platters and workers to man the booths. If you enjoy making crafts - they are needed too. (Please price them - you know the supplies and effort put into making the craft.) *Friday evening, November 30<sup>th</sup> 5-8 pm, is the friends and family preview event.* Saturday is when the town and our fellow congregations are involved.

At 5:30 pm on Saturday, everyone is to meet in Memorial Park. The church bells will ring, neighbors will light their Christmas displays, luminaries will light the streets and a wreath will be lit at the Park.

**What a wonderful way to start the Christmas Season!**

Oh give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name;  
Make known His deeds among the peoples.



**Nov. 25th**

We are continuing to enjoy the new Children's Ministry program here at St. Paul's. During the service children are invited to the front for a children's sermon with Pastor Ron and then led back to the classrooms to continue learning with stories, activities and crafts. Parents can stay with their children or return to the service.



**Want to be an elf?  
You can at  
STOCKING  
STUFFING DAY—  
Nov. 25th!!**

Immediately after service, join us to stuff this year's stockings. The Kahlers' have a brilliant system in place to get those stockings stuffed with just the right items for just the right child.

We will have snacks for our elf helpers and should have it all wrapped up by Noon.

*Psst—there's still time to  
donate items. Find specific  
tags on the benevolence tree.*





# TURKEY TREE

Envelopes will be available on the benevolence tree at the back of the overflow area throughout the month of November. Take an envelope, place your donation inside and put the envelope in the offering plate. All the donations collected in October and November will be given to the GVCS Food Bank to help with the expense of the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets given to our neighbors in need this holiday season. **Thank you for your contribution!**



## Consecration Sunday Summary!

Thank you to all who participated in Consecration Sunday this past week!

It's not too late to be involved. If you were unable to be at the service or luncheon we will be mailing out your pledge card. Would you prayerfully consider stepping up with your 2019 pledge? The Finance and Consecration committees will be updating us on our progress in the month of December as we prepare the new year's budget.



## HARVEST HOME SUCCESS!

294 food items and 10 pumpkins are heading to the Food Bank—THANK YOU !

Remember- baskets are at either church entrance and in the parish hall year round for food bank donations. Scouts will be out this month for their food drive too. Keep our neighbors in need in mind when you shop.

**Thanks again for such a great turnout!**

## LOVE BOXES...

The date for packing our Love Boxes is **Sunday, December 16, 3pm.**

- \* Our Love Boxes will be distributed to our shut-ins, bereaved, and elderly members of our church community.
- \* If you know of someone who should be a recipient, please notify Candy Swet, [crswet@gmail.com](mailto:crswet@gmail.com).
- \* We will need donations of shoe boxes, Christmas wrap, cookies, apples, oranges, individual snack packs, and wrapped "loose" candy (Hershey kisses, etc.).
- \* After all boxes have been packed we will share Christmas fellowship with dessert.
- \* Hope to see you there!

## HUMBLE WALK - Supporting the Campus Ministry November 11<sup>th</sup>

Humble Walk is a Lutheran Campus ministry at the University of Maryland. St. Paul's is providing a hot "home-cooked" meal for students before their worship service on Sun. Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in attending to help serve or able to prepare food, please see Trisha Valcarcel. Menu plans are still in the works & we can arrange carpool if needed. The group would depart Walkersville by 3pm to arrive in time & return home by 9pm. Check out their website & see a video at: <http://lutheranterps.com/thehumblewalk.html>



**It's a great opportunity to be with the next generation of believers!**



## Two ways to connect with the larger church...

### A passion for justice —and Jesus

A simple pot of rice and beans originally brought Eidas Rivas to Santuario Luterano, Waltham, Mass. Rivas, who is 34, made them at her mother's request for a potluck following evening worship. She hadn't planned on getting involved at Santuario; her intention was to "just come that Sunday and be done with it."

But it was the way the community embraced her three children—all with special needs—that kept Rivas coming back. Today she's deeply invested in the new ELCA congregation and so are her children, who serve as acolytes there.

For Rivas, belonging to Santuario is important because "we do a lot of social justice." This passion for service is a common thread among the congregation's young Latino membership, said Angel Marrero, pastor and mission developer there.

Members lead a variety of outreach efforts, including a free food pantry, GED classes and more. Last fall, in the wake of Hurricane Maria, Rivas and two other young adults at Santuario organized a donation drive for Puerto Rican families whose lives were devastated by the disaster.

Rivas remembers the constant flow of people and donations and calling Marrero to announce that a 24-foot truck had arrived—full of canned food for the people on the island.

"I was expecting 10 boxes," Marrero said of the effort. "We filled two airplanes (of donations) out of this mission church!"

He said the event was a turning point in his ministry with Santuario. New young people had found the congregation through it and asked him: "What's keeping you all together?"

Marrero answered,  
"We do this  
because of Jesus."

Now 78 people—and counting—are involved in Santuario's life and ministry, a reality that wouldn't be possible, Marrero said, without Mission Support.

Mission Support from the ELCA New England Synod and the ELCA churchwide organization fund Marrero's work with Santuario, which shares space and a partnership with First Lutheran Church of Waltham.

"The dollars you put in your offering ... is what allows me the freedom to work in Waltham [with the Latino community]," Marrero said. "Through the partnership with the larger church, it is possible to do ministry among them."



### A partner who shares your commitment.

When you're ready to make transformational gifts—those that exemplify your lifelong commitment to ministry and mission—the ELCA Foundation is your partner. Working together, we can help you answer the call to live as a faithful and generous steward, while supporting and strengthening the financial capacities of ELCA churchwide ministries, congregations, synods, agencies and institutions. We do this through gifts, financial education, resources, and investment and endowment management services.

### A legacy for doing God's work in the world.

An expression of all the church has meant to you through the years, planned gifts also bring tremendous possibilities within reach:

- Expanding outreach in the community and around the world
- Alleviating world hunger and poverty
- Responding to disasters
- Sponsoring missionaries
- Funding seminary scholarships
- Supporting new congregations



### Your life. Your faith. Your gift to the future.

Our lives are journeys of faith and generosity. And as our faith matures and deepens, so does the way we support God's work in the world. We start as children, dropping a few coins into a Sunday school donation box and watching as our parents make Sunday offerings. As we grow up (and older) in the church, our giving evolves as well, reflecting new depths of meaning, understanding and experience.

Major and planned gifts are a reflection of this trajectory. Yes, they are truly gifts to the future. But they are also enduring testimonies of lives joyfully lived in faith—year after year.



# Pastor's Pen

Sometime during his life, St. Augustine wrote this Prayer: *Blessed are all your saints, O God and King, who have traveled over the tempestuous sea of this mortal life, and have made the harbor of peace and happiness. Watch over us who are still on our dangerous voyage, and remember such as lie exposed to the rough storm of trouble and temptations. Frail is our vessel, and the ocean is wide, but as in your mercy you have set our course, so steer the vessel of our life toward the everlasting shore of peace. Bring us at length to the quiet haven of our hearts' desire, where you, O our God, are blessed, and live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.*



November is often called the “month of end times”. The first Sunday of the month (November 4) is called “All Saints Day” – a day for honoring all the saints, both those living and those who have gone to their eternal rest. Then, we bring the month to a climax (November 25) with Christ the King Sunday – the festive Sunday dedicated to looking forward with great anticipation to Christ’s triumphant and glorious return to make all things, including us, new. And in between, we focus on Christ’s judgment and salvation. It’s a month that holds many spellbound.

I’ve always been held spellbound by Augustine’s portrayal of God’s “saints”. For in a world so often consumed by veneration of seemingly superhuman individuals – those who have long since passed through this mortal life and entered into the life of the world to come – Augustine prays for himself, and for all of us who have had God’s claim put on us in baptism, but are still struggling through life in this broken and sinful world. You see, Augustine knew very well from firsthand experience, that absolutely no one becomes one of God’s “saints” (one of God’s “holy ones, if the Greek is translated literally) by their own power and ability.

We’re all born children of a fallen humanity; or, as the Apostle Paul puts it, all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Saints are not born – saints are made!

God’s Holy Spirit, in the waters of baptism, literally takes us “sinners” and makes us “holy ones” – “saints”. It’s the great gift of God, purchased by the sacrificial death and resurrection of God the Son, Jesus the Christ. It’s a gift that’s given in the here and now, in the waters of Holy Baptism, but does not come to completion until we’ve fully died to sin and risen to new life. In other words, in this life we’re “Simul iustus et Peccator” (simultaneously saint and sinner). That’s why Augustine prays as he does for himself and us – those of us who are still in our dangerous voyage, and...lie exposed to rough storms of trouble and temptations.



November, with all its eerie texts and images, is a month of promise and hope. For in it, we get a glimpse of the good things God has planned for us when He brings to completion the good work that was begun at our baptism (Philippians 1:6). God bless you as we all continue our *dangerous voyage...toward the everlasting shore of peace...the quiet haven of our heart's desire* where God – the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever.

Peace be with you all

Pastor Ron



## INDOOR YARD SALE

Benefitting the 2019 mission trip!

**NOVEMBER 10th**  
**from 8am-2pm**

Donations can be dropped off in the Parish Hall:

Thursday, Nov 8th from 4-7pm or

Friday, Nov 9th from 9am– 4pm

We will be having a presale Friday night from 4-7pm

AND new this year:

**multigenerational mission trip!**

—it's not just for kids anymore.

If you are interested in being a part of the mission team next summer please see Belinda for more details.



**Heating fuel season is upon us!**

**Do you use AERO energy?**

They have a giving program called House of Worship that returns a portion of your fuel cost to your church. It's easy to become a participant and no additional cost. Thank you to all who are already a part of this program, we received \$26.97 in the 2018 fuel season. If you participate how much could it be for 2019? Please see the Amy for more information, take pull tab from the sign on the bulletin boards or check out our website.

**amazon**smile

Shop for everyone on your gift list this holiday at

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-6041763> and Amazon donates to St Paul's. As of August 2018 we have received \$646.60.

Thank you for all who participate!

## Upcoming Events— December

- \* Hat & Mitten Tree — all month long
- \* Cookies & Caroling — Dec. 9th 6:30pm
- \* Love Boxes — Dec. 16th 3pm
- \* Christmas Eve Services — Dec. 24th
  - 7pm Youth-led Service &
  - 9pm Traditional Service with Communion