

The Epistle



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | OCTOBER 2018

LIVING A LIFE FILLED WITH THANKFULNESS

Harvest Home: Sunday, October 14th

An annual tradition in celebration of all the gifts God has provided.

It has been a tradition in our congregation to celebrate the harvest by returning a portion of God's gifts to be distributed to others in need. On Sunday, October 14th, please bring non-perishable food items to church. We will be collecting those items at the communion rail. After service they will be counted and taken to the Glade Valley Community Services Food Bank for distribution to those in our community. The current need at the Food Bank: canned pasta, rice, soup, pasta sauce, boxed helpers, canned fruit, canned peas, baked beans and peanut butter.

It's also Pumpkin Sunday! During the last hymn children are invited forward to choose a pumpkin. It's been a tough year for farmers, we will continue to pray for all those who toil so that others may be fed.

Update from South Africa:

As Tori Valcarcel continues her year of accompaniment in Atteridgeville, South Africa, you can keep up with all of her ventures through her newsletter. You can see Trisha to be added to the e-mail list or check it out on the bulletin boards around the church. Tori will be updating her blog as she is able at <https://toriinsouthsfrica.wordpress.com/>

Her first newsletter tells of her first day exploits and how God's plan is perfect even when we are late. Tori also included a passage from the Bible, Matthew 6:25-34. As you read these words Jesus said be reminded to pray for Tori, her host family and the ministries she will be assisting in Atteridgeville.

Church Events

- Oct 7th 11:45am— Confirmation Meeting
- Oct 9th 7:00pm— Council
- Oct. 11th 6:30pm— Calendar Planning Meeting
- Oct 14th Harvest Home
- Oct 15th 7:00pm— Christian Ed. Mtg
- Oct 26th 6:30-8pm— Children's Halloween Party
- Oct 27th 2pm— Eagle Scout Ceremony
- Oct 28th— Consecration Sunday

Christkindl Mart 2018

Building on last year's success St. Paul's will participate in the Historical Society's Christkindl Mart

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help with the Mart. The Walkersville Historical Society has been working very diligently on making this a very special annual event. We, at St. Paul's, will have a preview night on the 30th of November and start our event at 10 am on the 1st of December. We are having some of the same menu as last year - bratwurst with rolls, apple and berry streusel with ice cream and a spiced warm drink, much like Gluhwein but without the wine. German chocolate, hard candy and Stollen will also be for sale. The one item that we are in need of is cookies. Last year, we learned that large cookie trays did not sell but small packages of cookies and small plates of cookies sold well. Please consider baking some cookies for the bags and plates of cookies. We will need them on the morning of the 30th of November in the Parish Hall. Thank you for your interest in this event. The committee hopes you will attend, help or encourage people to come. We have a Facebook Page - St. Paul's Christkindl Mart if you would like to follow it. Also, the Walkersville Historical Society has a web site just for the Christkindl Mart. It is in the late stages of development and should be published soon. The United Church of Christ and the Methodist Church are also involved in this event. The Historical Society has children's events and a craft. (I heard some of Santa's elves have run amuck all over town.). Mrs. Claus will also be attending and reading to the children and her husband may make an appearance (I don't know how being that he must be pretty busy at this time). The committee looks forward to working with you.

****We are in need of pine cones, especially the smaller, woody type for some projects we are working on for the Christkindl Mart. As well we could use some shoe boxes. Please leave items in the back of the church, marked attention Candy Swet. Thanks so much!**

*And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus.
-Philippians 4:7*

All Saints Sunday is celebrated on November 4th. If you would like to include a loved one in the day's celebration, please list their name, date of death and relationship to you. We will be collecting the names throughout the month of October. Please give the information to the office, via your worship card or a note by October 28th.

Roots & Wings

A new approach to Children's Ministry here at St. Paul's

The goal of Christian Education remains consistent even as the approach changes. The goal has always been to help families build a foundation of faith with their children through the Word of God. As children grow with that firm foundation, rooted in scripture, they are able to securely venture into the world and it's perils with confidence in their Savior.

Roots and Wings will take place after the Children's Sermon every month on the 4th Sunday. Children are invited to join Belinda and others in the Education Wing as we dig deeper into the story through games and crafts. We will continue to grow deep roots on October 28th. Parents are welcome to stay or return to service. Hope you are able to join us.

Halloween Party

Friday, October 26th
6:30pm to 8pm
in the Parish Hall

All children are invited to wear their costume and join in the Fall Fun!

There will be a costume parade, games, snacks and crafts!

Bring a non-perishable baking item to be donated to the food bank to include in the holiday food baskets



Mr. & Mrs. Mildenstein
and Boy Scout Troop 1011
cordially invite you to attend the
Eagle Scout Court of Honor for

Daniel Mildenstein

Saturday, October 27, 2018
2:00pm

In the Nave of St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Reception following ceremony

Please RVSP to mrussamy@aol.com by Oct. 17th.

Consecration Sunday is Coming!

October 28, 2018

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship to God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like members of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. New Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?" During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship, our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration team and Council. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Troy Keeney
Council President

Pastor's Pen

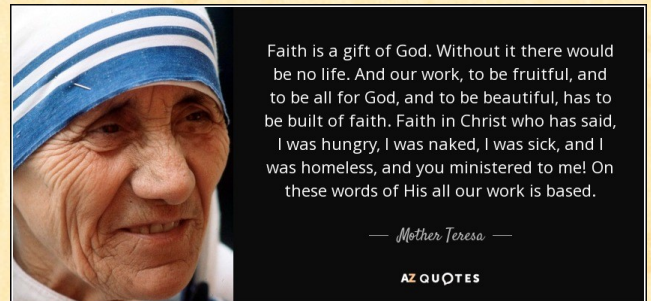
"For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law."
(Romans 3:28, NRSV)

Strong words from a man of faith – the man for whom this congregation is named as well as the man who inspired Luther to speak out against the prevailing theology of the church of his day, bringing about what we know today as the "Lutheran" Church.

October is a month of significance for those of us here at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in the heart of Walkersville. For every October, we remember that it was Luther's discovery of what the Apostle Paul was saying in his letter to the Christians in Rome about the importance of faith (as well as what he said in other letters to the Christians in Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi and Colossae, and to the young evangelist Timothy) that touched off Luther's personal reform as well as the reform that has spread across the entire Christian Church on earth. And it was all over the issue of the importance of faith.

But while faith is easy to talk about and easy to plug into doctrines, it is a nebulous thing to get a good grasp of. Oftentimes we think of it as merely an assent to certain statements – statements that our reason tells us are true. But faith is more than that; it is the ability to continue believing that something is true, even when our reason is attacked and battered by fears and doubts and starts to waver. As C.S. Lewis put it in his book, *Mere Christianity*, "...faith...is the art of holding on to things your reason has once accepted, in spite of your changing moods." And I don't have to elaborate on how fickle and shifting our moods can be.

I am reminded of another book – a book entitled, *Mother Teresa: Come be my Light*. This book revealed, to the astonishment of many, that for more than fifty years the celebrated Albanian born nun actually doubted the very existence of God. That is, for most of the time that she ran the Sisters of Charity – the mission in Calcutta, India that cares for the poor, the desperate, and the suffering – Mother Teresa struggled with her own faith in God.



Commentator Sandip Roy, an editor with New America Media in San Francisco, grew up in Calcutta and attended a Jesuit missionary school there. He met Mother Teresa as a schoolboy on outings to the orphanages and homes for the dying run by her Sisters of Charity. He recalls, "Mother Teresa seemed to gather the poverty and disease that swirled around us into the folds of her sari; and for a moment she let it actually touch our lives." He says he is not completely surprised that some of the newly published letters from Mother Teresa to the same priests he knew in Calcutta reveal her spiritual doubts. "But," he says, "the true miracle of Mother Teresa was that, in the midst of her own crisis of faith, she gave *us* faith. She taught even little, sheltered kids like us to see how desperate other people's lives were *and to care!*"

Isn't that really the true nature of faith – a nebulous "thing" that keeps us going in the right direction, despite the fact that our questions and doubts are attacking us. And is it really so surprising that the people we recognize as "pillars of faith" actually had to struggle with their faith throughout their lifetimes? Even Martin Luther was reported to have thrown an inkwell at the devil during one of his struggles (though it was a chamber pot that he actually threw). And, of course, we know from Acts and some of his letters that the Apostle Paul's faith was actually made tougher and stronger throughout the battering it had to go through. So, as we enter this Reformation month, let's remember that the faith that we actually do have isn't the result of something we have done, but is a gift from God - a gift freely given by a gracious God, and worked in us by the merciful God who loves and redeems us from sin, death, and the power of the devil. God bless you as you "wrestle" with your saving faith.

Pastor Ron



THANKS FOR A WONDERFUL 97th

To St. Paul's family who celebrated my unbelievable 97th birthday last week—special thanks. Beautiful cards, visits, cake, flowers, phone calls and special gifts were most appreciated.

I trust many of you saw a picture of the birthday cake and flowers at the social period as posted on Facebook, as well as messages of congratulations. What a modern day extra! Without a doubt, this was "the best birthday ever." So many THANK YOUS!

—Margaret

God's Work Our Hands Success!

Thank you to all who were able to participate in our first ever God's Work, Our Hands Day!



September 24, 2018

Please convey our thanks to all members of the St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church's "Gods Work Our Hands" group for the great gift bags for the patients at the Stockton Cancer Center. The Frederick Memorial Hospital Auxiliary thanks you on their behalf.

Danke!

Thank you for another successful German Dinner. Things ran smoothly because of all of the volunteers. We received many compliments about the food and the people.

GREAT JOB EVERYONE!

And a huge thank you to Russ & Amy and their German Dinner committee who have worked for months to make this such a wonderful event!



Save the date: Sunday evening, Dec. 16th

We will be making "Love Boxes" to be delivered to the bereaved, shut-ins, and elderly members of our church community. We will be asking for donations of cookies, fruit, and snacks. After the boxes are packed, we will share dessert, fellowship, and the Christmas spirit.

We hope you will join us!



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.

Sundays in November

Sunday, November 4th — All Saints Day

Sunday, November 11th — Veteran's Day Service

Sunday, November 18th — Thankoffering Sunday

Sunday, November 25th — Stocking Stuffing Day

ROLE CALL!!

We want to honor our veterans and active service men and women 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 Mon-Fri 9am to Noon at 301-845-4600 or email saintpaulslc@comcast.net