



# The Epistle

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2019

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

14 & 19 WEST PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, WALKERSVILLE, MD 21793

[www.stpaulslutheranchurch.org](http://www.stpaulslutheranchurch.org) | 301-845-4600

**Ash Wednesday Service will be held on March 6th at 7:30pm in the NAVE.**

**Join Us for Soups and Sandwiches**

For the duration of the Lenten season, beginning Wednesday, March 12th, there will be soup and sandwiches served before service at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall.

Our theme for Lent is "Hearts Renewed". On Sunday, March 3, three days before Lent begins, we will distribute the "Hearts Renewed" Lenten devotions for families and individuals. "Hearts Renewed" centers on caring hearts, clean hearts, trusting hearts and giving hearts. To help us nurture our giving hearts, each booklet will also contain a special offering envelope. We ask you to place an offering in the envelope - daily or weekly or by the end of Lent and place it in the offering plate on Easter Sunday (April 21).

## Mardi Gras Game Night

*Saturday, March 2, 2019 @ 5 PM — St. Paul's Parish Hall*

Bring your family and friends for food and fun at the annual Mardi Gras Game Night with Potluck Dinner. Bring your favorite dish to share for the potluck dinner and your favorite board games!

Dress up in Mardi Gras attire and win a prize!

Any questions, please contact Sheila Kahler @ 301-845-2820 (leave message) or [shekay921@aol.com](mailto:shekay921@aol.com)

## On the Calendar

- Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> - Mardi Gras Game Night 5pm
- Mar 5<sup>th</sup> – Congregation Life 7pm
- Mar 6<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday 7:30pm
- Mar 11<sup>th</sup> – Finance 7pm
- Mar 12<sup>th</sup> – Council 7pm
- Mar 24<sup>th</sup> – Christian Ed. 8:15am
- Mar 25<sup>th</sup> – Worship & Arts 7:30pm

## Special Note –

**The office will now be following the FCPS closing and delays for bad weather.**

**Typical office hours will be Monday to Friday, from 9am – 1pm.**



# Congregational Life

The Congregational Life Committee is tasked to designate \$100.00/month to an organization the benefits the community. Saint Paul's benevolence has made a difference in many lives. We have given monies to the Walkersville Safe and Sane Committee, the Religious Coalition, Heartly House, GVCS, the Food Bank and to many other worthwhile organizations.

We need your suggestions of organizations that you know are in need of financial aid. Do you know or volunteer for an organization that aids members of our community? If you do, please email your suggestions to Candy Swet at [crswet@gmail.com](mailto:crswet@gmail.com) or Wendy Brundage at [wendyb117@comcast.net](mailto:wendyb117@comcast.net). It would be helpful but not necessary to have a brief description of the organization and its mailing address. We look forward to hearing from you and reaching out to others in the community.

## Call Committee

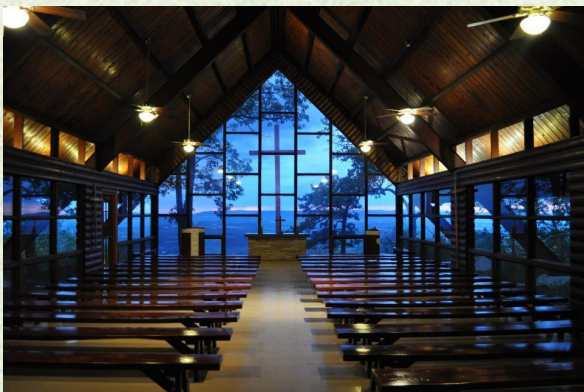
As of March 1, our Ministry Site Profile is active on the ELCA site for prospective candidates to see our job opening. Pastor Robin Simpson-Litton (Del-Md Synod) will be meeting with the Call Committee on March 10th after worship to give some training and answer any questions the committee may have moving forward. As information is available, the Call Committee will update the congregation in a timely fashion. As a reminder, the committee members are: Johanna Waters, Keith Horton, Ed Sell, Billie Jo Kahler, Connie Chesnik, Trisha Valcarcel and as a youth advisor Maddie Kahler.

If anyone has questions, please reach out to one of the members or contact Trisha [trish.valcarcel@gmail.com](mailto:trish.valcarcel@gmail.com)

## Mar-Lu-Ridge 2019

Camperships are still available for Summer Camp. Visit the side bulletin for registration information and campership application. The deadline is March 24th for applications. If you have any questions see Belinda or Pastor Ron.

Visit their website at <https://www.mar-lu-ridge.org/>



### Quilting Angel

*Holiday/snow breaks are over!*

*Come to Margaret's home (50-A Main Street) on Wednesday, March 13th at 9:30am to begin our year's work by knotting 5 covers.*

*It is hoped March 13th will be possible for all our faithful workers to help for whatever time is convenient with them. One or two people can not do all necessary to complete ample quilts by year's end. Be an angel and help!*

*Second Wednesday of each month will be our meeting quilt day unless a better time is needed.*

## National Quilting Day (NQD)

So, on National Quilting Day, Lutheran World Relief wants to celebrate you! We want to lift up your ministries and show others the phenomenal work you do. You can join the party in several ways:

- Share your stories, photos, and fun tips via social media that weekend, and tag Lutheran World Relief (@LuthWorldRelief on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram). You can also use the hashtag #NQD2018 to join in the wider conversation!

Hop on to the [LWR Quilters & Kit Makers Community Facebook group](#) to watch live video feeds from LWR NQD events happening across the country.

- Ask your congregational leaders to include a petition in the prayers of the church lifting up quilters and those who receive quilts.

St. Paul's will be celebrating during the service on March 10th

Visit [lwr.org/nqd](http://lwr.org/nqd) to let us know you're celebrating. There you can download resources to help you plan your own National Quilting Day event!



Matthew Phipps and Gisela Jones  
quilt at Our Savior Lutheran  
Church in Hanover, N.H.



# Pastor's Corner

As of March 6, Lent is upon us. Just as in spring we clear and prepare the soil for new growth, and wash and sweep our homes clear of the winter's accumulated debris, so Lent is the time to open ourselves to God so God may do likewise with our souls.

Extra worship opportunities might at first seem like added weight to our schedule but we discover they are really times to ease the burdens of our hearts. The changes to the liturgy shift attention from pre-occupation with our activities to pre-occupation with God's activity in Christ. The use of ashes, hymns sung in a minor key, purple or black paraments are not for the purpose of depressing our mood but to make way for the Holy Spirit to care for our spirits. Lent is the church's "reality check" and "revival time" rolled into forty days and six Sundays.

There are many reasons for members of St. Paul's to miss worship: schedule concerns, weather, hurts imagined or real – caused by self, others, or even God. Unfortunately, none of these excuses is valid during Lent. The different times for worship, the length of the season negate the first two.

That leaves hurt as a reason for staying away: You did or failed to do something. "They" did or failed to do something. Or - God did or failed to do something. Thus, it is guilt or shame or anger that have kept you away.

For these reasons Christ was born. For these reasons Jesus taught and walked the land. For these reasons Christ died on the cross. For this reason God raised him from the dead – to give us life.

In love, God brought the world into being. So show love, God took on our flesh. To share love, God's Spirit is among us. This love gathers us together that we might realize the promise of God's presence. Lent is the remembrance of this love and the renewal of its presence in our lives. The arms of Christ are extended wide in loving invitation. Come and worship.

**It's time to rejoin the living. Come and worship!  
Consider these words by the author C. S. Lewis:**

*"To suppose that attending weekly worship is doing something for God...is to demonstrate a remarkable poverty of insight into the Christian enterprise. The Sabbath, at least according to Jesus, is not a responsibility but a gift (...the Sabbath was made for humankind, not humankind for the Sabbath" – Mark 2:27). The opportunity to join in fellowship around the spoken and sacramental word of the Gospel is akin to the opportunity to take nourishment. Just as one does not ordinarily say, "I will do God a favor this morning by eating breakfast," so too it is inappropriate to suggest that God is benefitted by our eating the bread of life. Church attendance is God's stewardship to us, and while it is fair to say that not all persons who attend church are Christians, expect for the sick, all Christians to go church."*





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Indoor "Yard" Sale

### Donations Needed:

Drop off donations in the Parish Hall  
Thursday evening 6-8pm or  
Friday 9am until 4pm.

Donations will not be accepted on Saturday.

Thank you so much for your support!

**March 9<sup>th</sup>**

**8am-2pm**

Sneak Peek Sale Fri., March 8<sup>th</sup> 4pm-7pm

St. Paul's Parish Hall

19 West Pennsylvania Avenue; Walkersville, MD

Proceeds from the sale will benefit the St. Paul's Youth Mission trip to the Wind River

Reservation this summer.



## New Office Admin

We welcome Victoria Rowe to St. Paul's as the new Office Administrator. She comes to us with an art degree in illustration. She jumped right in at the beginning of the month and is excited to create a smooth transition as we continue to update the office with a more modern style.

Victoria lives in Myersville with two adorable pups, Momo and Pooka. She works full-time from her home as a freelance illustrator. We are lucky to have her and her energy.

The office is open Monday thru Friday 9am until 1pm. Please feel free to stop by, say hi and introduce yourself.

*(P.S. Don't forget to make her life easy and adhere to the deadlines —Belinda)*



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SPECIAL VISITOR

On Sunday, March 31, Mr. John Auger, Vice President of our Delaware Maryland Synod, has asked to visit our congregation. He will bring us official greetings from the synod at our worship service. When worship concludes, he would like to hear from us. He has asked that the church council, call committee, and anyone else who is interested, please stay for a brief, informal meeting in which we, as a congregation of this synod, can give our synod feedback evaluation.

## Lily Dedication

Signups for Lily Dedication to decorate the NAVE for Easter will be up in March  
**Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**

Easter Egg Hunt at 3pm gather in the church.

**Sunday, April 21<sup>th</sup>**

Two services will be held at 8:30am and 11am with a breakfast in between being held in the Social Hall.

