

The Epistle

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2019

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

14 & 19 WEST PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, WALKERSVILLE, MD 21793

www.stpaulslutheranchurch.org | 301-845-4600

Exploration of Holy Week

Sunday, April 14th

Palm Sunday Service at 9:30am

Wednesday, April 17th

Soup & Sandwich before Service at 6:30pm

Thursday, April 18th

*Dinner Church for Maundy Thursday in the Parish Hall
6:00pm*

Friday, April 19th

Good Friday Service in the Nave at 7:30pm

Sunday, April 21st

*Easter Sunday Service at 8:00am followed by breakfast
then 11:00am service*

Palm Sunday

Oftentimes, to grasp the fullness of something significant, it helps to look at both sides. So it is, that to approach the meaning of Christ, we need to say two things: Jesus and Christ; human and divine; death and resurrection; bread and body. This service on Palm Sunday will celebrate these two sides as we fit both truths into one service.

Maundy Thursday

We call it "Maundy Thursday" because Maundy means "command", from the verse in John's gospel in which Jesus commands us to love another as he loved us. We hear about the Passover lamb, Jesus' last meal with his disciples before his death, and Jesus washing his disciples' feet on this night.

Good Friday

Why do we call this day Good? In John's telling of Jesus' passion, Jesus is "I AM," the God who reigns from the cross, the king who discusses theology with Pilate. On this day we listen intently to the pain, yet glory and magnificence that shine through John's passion account. At this service we pray for everyone we can think of, and we confess that it is because of everyone's sin that crucified Christ.

Easter Sunday

What does it mean to be Christian? Christians are those who are enlivened by their faith that the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ can transform themselves and the world. Each Sunday we gather to praise the resurrection, but Easter is our annual blow-out celebration. This year we hear the gospel from Luke, we share the meal of our Lord, and we sing Alleluia over and over again.

Church Events

- Apr 2nd – Congregational Life 7pm
- Apr 3rd – Soup & Sandwich Service 6:30pm 7:30pm
- Apr 8th – Finance 7pm
- Apr 9th – Council 7pm
- Apr 10th – Soup & Sandwich Service 6:30pm 7:30pm
- Apr 14th - Apr 21st - Holy Week
- Apr 20th – Easter Egg Hunt 3pm
- Apr 28th – Recognition Sunday (Volunteer Appreciation)
- Apr 29th - Worship & Arts 7pm

Become a vital part of the Mission Possible 2019: Wind River by becoming a Shareholder!

As a **shareholder** you are invited to *share* in our mission experience! In August you will be an honored guest at a special Shareholders Luncheon. We will be sharing our journey across the country to be the hands of Christ in service to the people on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming. This will be our 8th Shareholders Luncheon! We truly appreciate your support- we couldn't do it without you!

To become a shareholder please see Belinda or one of the mission team members after church each Sunday beginning April 1st to purchase your share for \$10 each.

If you can't make it to service, please contact Belinda at daydrmr24@msn.com or 240-315-5030 to become a shareholder.

Feeling called a bit further? Support the Mission Team by becoming a prayer partner as well. We need 10 people to partner with our participants and lift them up in prayer throughout this time of preparation and especially during our time of travel and service.

A little bit about where we are headed-- Wyoming: Wind River Reservation

About the Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone: The Eastern Shoshone migrated onto the Plains from Nevada in the 1600s. The Northern Arapaho migrated out of Minnesota onto the Plains at the same time. The government confiscated land from the Arapaho for gold mining and forced the two traditional enemies onto one reservation.

History of the Reservation: In 1878, the Northern Arapaho joined the Eastern Shoshone in the Wind River Valley. The enemy tribes agreed to this arrangement because the government assured them the Arapaho would be moved soon. Fifty years later, the Shoshone and Arapaho made their peace and the government compensated the Shoshone for the loss of land. The Shoshone and Arapaho currently share the Wind River Reservation, the third largest in the U.S., with more than 2.2 million acres in Wyoming's Wind River Valley. compensated the Shoshone for the loss of land.

Life on the Reservation: Eastern Shoshone culture on the Reservation is centered around the town of Fort Washakie. This Fort was the only military outpost established to protect, rather than fight, the Indians. The post operated until 1909 and many of the original buildings are still intact.

Ranching is the economic mainstay of the Wind River Reservation, where the Arapaho raise cattle. The Shoshone own a construction company and the tribes jointly own a bingo operation. Tourism also provides a small number of jobs for tribal members. Despite the existence of these businesses, unemployment and poverty are both high on the reservation, with more than one in five Wind River residents living in poverty.

From the North Plains Reservation Aid website

The Congregational Life Committee is Recruiting Additional Members !

This committee is the clearinghouse for all social/community events, caregiving/outreach, and fundraisers. We would like to streamline the ministry work into three subcommittees that will be responsible for specific functions/tasks:

- (1) Social/Community Events,
- (2) Caregiving and Outreach Ministries, and
- (3) Fundraising.

The three subcommittees would meet on a quarterly basis in planning/coordinating efforts. If you are interested in helping on one of these committees, please contact Sheila Kahler, Linda Yopp, Wendy Brundage or Candy Swet.

St. Paul's Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 20th

starting at 3pm

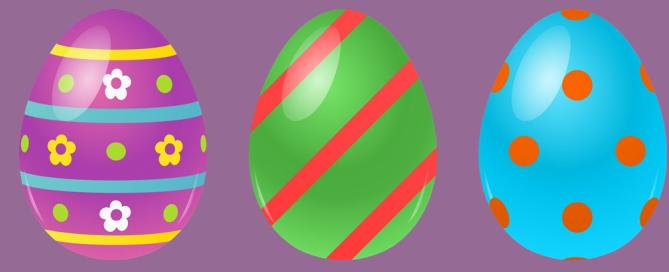
14 West Pennsylvania Ave. Walkersville
Rain or Shine

All children in 5th grade & younger are welcome to bring their baskets & hunt for eggs. Refreshments and activities round out an afternoon of fun!

BRING A FRIEND!

Parents are always welcome. Older youth are invited to come help out.

If you have any questions call Belinda at 240-315-5030 email daydrmr24@msn.com



Pastor's Corner

I get asked one question over and over right about now: "Why does the date of Easter change every year?" There are two reasons: First, the timing of the Jewish feast of Passover. And secondly, a big church meeting that took place in 325 AD.

All four Gospels place Christ's death and resurrection in the context of Passover, the spring festival that celebrates God's liberating Israel from slavery in Egypt. In all of the Gospels, Jesus rises from the dead on the Sunday after Passover. The Jewish calendar is determined by the phases of the moon, whereas the calendar most of the world uses today is based on the earth's rotation around the sun. Passover begins on the night of the first full moon after the spring equinox. So it's on a different day each year, roughly between March 22 and April 25 on our solar calendar. This year Easter happens on April 21 – rather late, but not as late as it could be (it will not fall on April 25 until the year 2038).



– April, 2019

Here's an interesting piece of knowledge.

Calculating backward to the time of Christ with our current solar calendar, most scholars agree that Jesus died on Friday, April 7, and rose from the dead on Sunday, April 9. So why not keep Easter every year on April 9, just as we keep Christmas every year on Dec. 25? Because it's always been significant to the church that Jesus rose from the dead on a Sunday. Just as God rested on the Sabbath (Saturday) after creating the world, Jesus "rested" in death on our Holy Saturday after completing his work of re-creating the world by dying on the cross. Incidentally, this is also the reason we worship on Sunday morning rather than Saturday evening – to remind ourselves of Christ's victory over death every week!

In the first two centuries of the church, Christians in Syria and Asia Minor kept Easter on the same date each year regardless of what day of the week it fell on. In 325, the Council of Nicea (that big church meeting I mentioned above) decided that it was more important to keep Easter on the Sunday after Passover than on the historical anniversary date, preserving the importance of both Passover and Sunday for our understanding and celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead.

GVCS Community Thrift Shop in Need of Volunteers

Generous donations of gently used clothing to our Community Thrift Shop provided enough clothing for those in need to purchase about 1400 bags of clothing (and 300 coats) at minimal cost. The Thrift Shop is managed by volunteers MaryAnne Schouw and Mel Palmer. Volunteers sort all the clothing and staff the shop during Saturday hours. ***St. Paul's Lutheran Church has provided much appreciated space in their Parish Hall for the Thrift Shop for many years.***

Volunteers are urgently needed to help staff the Thrift Shop on some Saturdays this coming year. Some churches have committed to provide volunteers for a given month, but there are still some months without volunteers. It would be a terrible thing if the thrift shop were to close due to no volunteers being available. Hopefully that will not be necessary, but volunteers are needed now to fill the schedule. Many families depend on the Thrift Shop for their children as well as themselves. Let's not disappoint them with a "closed due to lack of volunteers" sign.

Whether you can volunteer for one Saturday, every Saturday for a month, or on a regular monthly schedule (every first Saturday, etc.) you will make a difference. Teens who need community service hours are welcome. Groups are welcome to sponsor a month. To volunteer, contact MaryAnne at maryanne.schouw@gmail.com or 301-845-4126.

Use of Our Buildings

On Sunday, March 24, congregational president Troy Keeney, property chairman Russ Mildenstein and Pastor Ron shared with the congregation that we have been approached by a local homeschooling organization that wishes to rent classroom space in our buildings. The organization is called Frederick East Classical, and they seek approximately a dozen classrooms, to be used from 8:30 to 4:30 Mondays and Wednesdays during the school year.

Frederick East Classical consists of 80 students plus teachers. They have been in operation for a few years and presently meet at Calvary Assembly of God in Walkersville. The rooms they seek include the eight classrooms in the upper level of our educational wing, the kitchen and dining room in the downstairs, two rooms in the nave (made possible by the wooden room dividers), the kitchen and meeting room in the Parish hall and the room in the basement of the Parish Hall that we call our money counting room. We are talking about a rental of \$250 per day, every day our facilities are used.

At its March meeting, our church council gave the go-ahead to pursue a relationship with Frederick East Classical and authorized Troy, Russ, Pastor Ron, and Mary Ann Ferguson to prepare a contract with Frederick East Classical. Of course, the team will report back to the council before anything is finalized, and the team will explain where St. Paul's parking lots and driveways are and where they are not. It is Frederick East Classical's plan to make the move in September. But since Calvary Assembly of God is renovating and remodeling, they just may have to make the move during the present school year. You can find more about Frederick East Classical at <http://www.frederickeastclassical.com/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, May 4th

Come join us for property clean up day May 4th. We will need individuals for inside and outside jobs. If you've ever wanted to go to the top of the bell tower this is your opportunity! Anyone that has a specific project they want to tackle let me know. I will put a sign-up sheet on the side bulletin board in the church to get an accurate count of participants. Thanks - Russ Mildenstein

Thursday, May 18th 9am-2pm

The Strawberry Festival is an outdoor fun-filled event for the community to enjoy food, listening to bluegrass music and children activities. Net proceeds from this event are used to further support St. Paul's Outreach Ministries and other programs. It's our opportunity to SHINE in our community.

Please consider coming to the planning meetings to learn about the strawberry festival and how YOU can volunteer your time/talents behind the scenes and/or on the day of the event. Bring your ideas!

Areas to serve/volunteer:

- * Advertising/Marketing (create flyers around town, etc.)
- * Popcorn Machine (make and serve popcorn)
- * Drink Tent (lemonade, water and sodas)
- * Food Tent (servers) (serve food)
- * Children Activities and Face Painting
- * Kitchen Help - 2 PM to ? - (wash and put away items used during the event)
- * Welcome Tent (share info about St. Paul's to the community)
- * Bake Table (volunteers to bake items; staff table on event day)
- * Strawberry Shortcake Tent (servers/bakers of shortcakes)
- * Grilling Team (grill meats)
- * Runners (to get crockpots and food items from refrig/freezer to tents)
- * Set-Up/Take Down (tents, tables and chairs)

Weather permitting, we plan on setting up tents/tables/chairs on **Friday night, May 17th**.

If you are interested and not able to attend a planning meeting, please let me know. We would love to hear from you!

Sheila Kahler - 301-845-2820 (leave message) shekay921@aol.com

Community Thrift Shop is over 20 years old

Thank you to all who contributed to this article



The Community Thrift Shop was started over 20 years ago, about 1997. Kristen Spear, then coordinator for the Community Agency for School Services (CASS), saw a need for a thrift shop in the area. With the help of Pastor Tim Hampton, she started to collect and distribute clothes from a closet in her office in the Faith Community Mennonite Church on West Frederick St (the old Walkersville Town Hall and currently the Life and Liberty Baptist Church).

Hannah Gaffigan of Woodsboro was recruited to help as the shop grew. When the shop was open, volunteers would move the clothes from the closet to the main room, and back to the closet when it closed. A lot of work!

Hannah talked with the Walkersville ministers, who agreed that the churches could help staff the Thrift Shop. A different church volunteered to run the shop each month. This model is still followed, but some churches have dropped out, and they are looking for volunteers to fill in the gaps.

Pastor Mark Foucart and St. Paul's Lutheran Church offered the basement of their Parish Hall in the summer of 2004. Belinda Burriss was the coordinator then. Everyone was excited with the larger space that offered a permanent home for the clothes, no need to pack things up when the shop closed.

Around 2006 or 2007, when Kathy and Barry Malonis were coordinators, Tim Dinterman built the 3 green drop boxes for clothing donations. In Walkersville, the green clothing drop boxes are located at the entrance to the St. Paul's Parish Hall parking lot at 19 West Pennsylvania Ave. near Fulton Ave., and at the Walkersville Community Church, 207 Braeburn Drive. In Woodsboro, there is a clothing drop box located in the upper parking lot at Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church, 101 S. Main St. Entrance to the upper parking lot is by way of Church Alley.



In addition to those already mentioned, some of the folks who also helped in earlier years were Sandra Coakley, Peg Bourland, Betty Hooper, Gloria Werking and the many volunteers from area churches.



Thrift Shop is located in basement of St. Paul's Parish Hall, 19 W Pennsylvania Ave, Walkersville. Entrance is from the rear parking lot.

MaryAnne Schouw and Mel Palmer became the coordinators in 2014. In 2018, generous donations of gently used clothing to the Community Thrift Shop provided enough clothing for those in need to purchase about 1370 bags of clothing at minimal cost and 290 coats, and the racks are still full. Volunteers sort all the clothing during the week and staff the shop during Saturday hours when the shop is open 10am to 2pm.

Whether you can volunteer for one Saturday, every Saturday for a month, or on a regular monthly schedule (every first Saturday, etc.) you will make a difference. Teens who need community service hours are welcome. Groups are welcome to sponsor a month. To volunteer, contact MaryAnne at maryanne.schouw@gmail.com.



Volunteers Deliver Christmas Cheer at Holiday Toy Shoppe



The GVCS Toy Shoppe Chairs and committee would like to thank the wonderful Walkersville/Woodsboro (and beyond) community for another very successful Holiday Toy Shoppe! The holiday spirit was alive at Walkersville Town Hall during the Holiday Toy Shoppe in December. This year, 82 families with 171 children 10 years and younger, received gifts which consisted of clothing, socks, underwear, coats, hats, gloves, toys, and books, along with homemade stockings, made by Phyllis Dayhoff, filled with age appropriate toys. 30 middle schoolers and 59 teens received coats, books and gift cards. We also provided the gift wrap, tape, and batteries for the families to wrap their gifts.

Thanks to our great donors who collected coats, we were once again able to offer every family member a gently used coat.

The Toy Shoppe was chaired by Ann Wadding and Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis. Over 25 volunteers worked for months on the Toy Shoppe. Many hours of work and our generous donors brought smiles to the children of our community who would otherwise not have presents under their tree. Parents at the Toy Shoppe were very appreciative and grateful, some with tears in their eyes.

Next year's signups will be throughout the month of October (details will follow later this year), and the distribution date for 2019 is December 4th. Volunteers are needed for next year, planning starts in early fall; call Ann at 301-845-0213.



A letter from one of the families:

To Glade Valley Community Services,
I want to thank you so very much for such a wonderful
Christmas program. We just moved to the area, and I
was blown away by the awesome welcome we received
when applying for the program to the fun pickup day.
Everyone was so nice and helpful. My children will love
the gifts, and I loved the new socks and underwear they
got. You thought of every detail from coats, books, gift
wrap, tape to the batteries! This all came at a very
needed time for our family so thank you all. You are a
true blessing. May God bless each of you.



Volunteers at the Toy Shoppe:

L to R: Vicki Poole, Silvina Etchegoyen, Sheri Jacobs, Ann Wadding, Mel Palmer, Mitzi Smith, Darlene Grimes, Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Erin McMurry, Tina Miller, Pat Douglas, Cara Boledovic, Jenny Heller, Sara Simmons and Kathy Briske. Not pictured Don Boos, Tommy Ritondo



You are invited to the table...

*Gather with us on April 18th at 6pm in the Parish Hall for
St. Paul's first ever Dinner Church experience.*

Jesus invites us in that last supper with his disciples to continue gathering in His name and remember the promise of grace through His sacrifice. No need to bring anything but an open heart.

Please RSVP by April 14th to Belinda or the office at saintpaulslc@comcast.net