

The Epistle

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MAY 2019

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

14 & 19 WEST PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, WALKERSVILLE, MD 21793

WWW.STPAULSLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG | 301-845-4600

St. Paul's Strawberry Festival

May 18, 2019 9 AM to 3 PM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Corner of Pennsylvania Ave/Fulton Ave.

The Strawberry Festival is an opportunity for St. Paul's to shine as we live and share our mission within our community, in Frederick County and to the larger world. We need all hands on deck to make this festival a success! We invite you to be a part of this congregational event by volunteering your time, talents, prayers and/or providing donations towards this annual event. If you can volunteer a couple of hours or a full day, there are many ways you can serve:

- Volunteer the week of May 12th in preparation for the event (i.e. pack Kid's Meals, signage, inventory items, etc.)
- Help with set-up of the event Friday evening (weather permitting @ 6 PM to 3 PM) and/or Saturday morning (7 AM to 9 AM)
- Help with take-down of the event Saturday afternoon (@ 3 PM)
- Volunteer at St. Paul's Welcome Tent
- Bake something for the Bake Table
- Volunteer to serve at the Drink Tent: soda, water, fresh-squeezed lemonade and tea
- Volunteer to serve food at one of the tents: Food Tent, Strawberry Shortcake Tent
- Volunteer to grill hot dogs, burgers, or brats
- Be a runner and retrieve items from the Social Hall Kitchen to the tents
- Groundskeeper of garbage cans and recycle bins
- Kitchen Help - wash and put away items used for the event (@ 2 PM)
- Volunteer with children activities from 11 to 1
- Volunteer at the Stephen Ministry Tent
- Plant Sale - no plant sale this year; however, if you are interested in running the Plant Sale, please let me know.

Thank you for your continued support towards St. Paul's and the annual Strawberry Festival.

If you have any questions or interested in volunteering, please let me know.

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

Church Events

Saturday, May 4th

Property Cleanup 8:30am

Sunday, May 5th

Christian Education 8:15am

Tuesday, May 7th

Strawberry Fest Meeting 6pm

Congregational Life 7pm

Monday, May 13th

Finance 7pm

Tuesday, May 14th

Council 7pm

Friday, May 17th

Strawberry Festival Set-Up 5pm

Saturday, May 18th

Strawberry Festival 9am-2pm

Wednesday, May 22nd

Open House for East Classical TBD

Monday, May 27th

Office Closed

Tuesday, May 28th

Executive Council 7pm

Worship & Arts 7pm

Property Clean-Up Day needs YOU!

Come join us for Property Clean-Up Day on May 4th as we prepare our church and property before our spring events, such as the Strawberry Festival and the new homeschool group open house. We will need individuals for inside and outside jobs and for anyone that has a specific project they'd like to tackle, contact Russ for assistance. We will begin at 8:30am, however any time you can spare is a huge help to our congregation. We will also be joined by some volunteers from the new home school group, so this is a great opportunity to meet them and make a positive first impression, as well as offer a warm welcome to St. Paul's!

If you are interested, please RSVP to Russ or visit the sign-up sheet on the side bulletin board in the church so there can be an accurate count of participants as well as ensuring enough supplies are brought.



Pastor's Pen

In the Gospel of John we read of the raising of Lazarus. Jesus proclaims there that he is "the resurrection and the life." This proclamation is indeed good news for us as we bask in the Resurrection of our Lord. Jesus speaks here of the resurrection from the dead in the present tense. Jews in Jesus' day believed that God would raise up the faithful at the end of time. This is what Martha thought Jesus meant when he said, "Your brother will rise again." "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day," she replied. The good news comes as Jesus brings that far-off day into the present, declaring, "I am the resurrection and the life."

In Jesus is the power of life itself. One's hope no longer lies in some far-off resurrection day but in the newness of life Christ offers today. Where Christ is, there is resurrection from the dead. Jesus is shown to be the great battler against death. He has come that the world may have life here and now and always. Easter proclaims that with Christ's resurrection the last enemy of humankind has been defeated.

Christ who is the resurrection and the life is ready now to do his resurrection work in you. It seems all too true that death's power over our daily living is such that we tend to feel half dead much of the time. Why do you walk around half dead when there is newness of life available here and now? Christ is the resurrection. The resurrection is not a distant event - it is a person - Jesus Christ. You can experience resurrection now.

Through Christ new life can grow out of hopelessness and despair, deadened bodies can awake to life, and hardened hearts can come alive. Easter proclaims Christ's victory over death. Let us bring our death-bound lives to Christ for renewing.

Congregational Life Ministry - April Minutes

Local Benevolence - for March and April 2019 - \$200 allocated to Pastor Ron, at his discretion, to help a family in need from our church.

- May 2019 - committee suggest \$100 to Walkersville HS Safe and Sane
- June 2019 - committee suggest the \$100 to SHIP (Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership of Frederick)

Social/Events Updates/Information:

- Confirmation Sunday - June 9th - need folks to provide food/cake + drinks
- Summer Chats hosted by Council members - suggest Council member to do a "Temple Talk" about their assigned committee. Sign-up sheet will be circulated at the Council meeting on April 9th.

Planning/Coordinating Upcoming Social/Community Events in 2019:

- **Annual Church Picnic** - August 25th - Pavilion reserved; blessing of the backpacks
- The CL committee will plan Friday night dinners after Easter/Strawberry Festival
- Progressive Dinners - Candy Swet will planning this in Fall 2019.

Caregiving and Outreach Ministries

- **Stephen Ministry** (Linda Yopp) - 1 caring relationship; care receiver appreciates this ministry.
- **GVCS Clothes Closet** - St. Paul's month to staff is October 2019.
- **The Need Tree** (Merle Anderson) - Strawberry Festival donations (April 28th to May 12th)
- **God's Work, Our Hands Project** (September 8th) - Planning event in August with congregation making the final selection. Vote: August 18th & 25th



Executive Committee

April Minutes

Church Attendance

Revisit the purpose of the attendance cards and tracking attendance in Shepherd Staff. Office Administrator will enter information for the next 4 weeks and report back on how it's going.

Since there are folks that don't use the Sunday worship cards, suggest creating an "attendance sheet" and folks check off their name or a council member to check off names; this is another way to verify attendance numbers at worship services.

Contract with

Frederick East Classical, Inc.

Pastor Ron, Troy Keeney and Mary Ann Ferguson will be meeting with the FEC's Leadership Team to work out the contracts on Saturday, March 30, 2019.

Frederick East Classical, Inc. (FEC)

Announcement was made to the congregation prior to worship service on March 24th about FEC to rent our facilities on Mondays/Wednesdays (all day) for their homeschool program for the 2019-2020 school year. Questions from the congregation included:

- Traffic Flow and Parking (Faibles)
- We will ask FEC to have cones to direct staff/families where to park and for the arrival/dismissal process. This will be written into the contract.
- Stakes down the driveway to deter folks using the Fauble's driveway.
- Provide a visual of the side yard for Outdoor space use
- Did we check with Calvary about FEC? (Waters) - Pastor Ron will make contact with the Pastor @ Calvary; may visit Calvary while FEC is using their facilities and see them in "action".

Comcast Business Contract

Trish Valcarcel is in contact with Comcast to check our current and proposed WiFi needs/costs. If it costs more to have WiFi in the Education Wing/Church, charge FEC for the difference?

St. Paul's Website

Office Administrator is working on linking the current Epistle and archive Epistles to the website. The monthly calendar is now available online.

Council - April Minutes

Frederick East Classic, Inc. (FEC)

Frederick East Classical, Inc. (501(c)3) is a 2-day, Christian, classical 'hybrid' homeschool cooperative, meeting in Walkersville, MD (Grades K-12). This program is designed to assist parents in the homeschooling of their children by providing academic instruction on Mondays and Wednesdays and guidelines for homework on the 'off days'.

Overview of proposal to rent our facilities on Mondays/Wednesdays (all day) for their program. They are currently renting space at Calvary Assembly for the past two years.

For the 2018-2019 school year, they are at full capacity. With recent renovations and new mission/focus at Calvary Assembly, this space will not accommodate their needs any longer. Frederick Classical East is looking for a new location to meet their needs. They are currently paying rent of \$250/day x 68 class and prep days = \$18,000/yr.

The congregation has been praying for new families with children coming to St. Paul's. This opportunity will help us in:

- Making connections with other children in our community (expand Sunday School and Youth Groups)
- The vision of our church opening our doors and our hearts
- FEC wants to be a PARTNER with St. Paul's to live their mission and do by example.
- FEC wants to be a PARTNER and work alongside of us in our Social/Outreach Events.
- The annual rental income will help us continue making improvements to our facilities.

After much discussion, Mary Ann Ferguson made a motion to approve Frederick East Classical renting our facilities for the 2019--2020 school year pursuant to the terms of the contract; seconded by Betsy Galliher. Council Approved. A contract will be drawn up and signed by both parties.

Mary Ann Ferguson made a motion to do the renovations/Improvements (i.e. carpeting, shelving, etc.) in getting the classroom spaces ready for Frederick East Classical; funding to cover these costs will come from the \$9,000 Property Renovation Fund; seconded by Pat Fellows. Council Approved

Communication to the Congregation - An email will go out to the congregation and Pastor Ron will make the announcement on Sunday, March 24th (Pastor is away on March 17th).

Call Committee

Met with Pastor Robyn after church on Sunday, March 10th. Went over generic synod involvement in the call process. Traditional Call Process - meet a candidate, share a meal together and have the candidate preach on a Sunday.

New Business

Office Administrator - A new directory will be coming out soon; Notify Victoria of any changes/edits.

Mr. Blackburn offered to pay (donate funds) for updating the external lights to the front and sides of the church.

Facility Request - Girl Scouts Adult Leaders meeting in the PH on Thursday, April 4th from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm (30 people) - Council Approved

Discussion:

Rent: \$250/day for rent and will meet 2 days a week (days negotiable). If we observe snow days (we follow FCPS snow calls), we still pay the \$250. If the church is unavailable on one of our meeting days for a church event or funeral, FEC would ask for rent credit on those days.

Use of Facilities:

- Mondays and Wednesdays; 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Rooms

- 8 rooms in the Education Wing + Nursery
- Social Hall + Kitchen (science labs) FEC will cover the cost for room dividers in the Social Hall.
- Overflow area and Library (church) The wooden doors can be pulled down to separate the overflow area from the church. FEC may place a table between the kneeling railing and front pew for an activity. They will not use the altar or the pews.
- Parish Hall + Kitchen
- Money Counting Room in the basement (room is being cleaned up and be repainted.)

80 Families

Students:

- 13 children per grade (K-12); 1 Teacher per class; roving adults (parents) to help with activities and check on the students throughout the day.

Classrooms:

- Grades K-8 stay in the same classrooms; Grades 9-12 would rotate classrooms. (Tiles to be removed and carpet to be installed)

Car Drop-off/Pick-up:

- Families would enter from Pennsylvania Ave and use the alley alongside the church and pick up students at the back of the Education Wing and exit unto Fulton Ave.
- Communication - FEC and St. Paul's - liaisons for each organization will meet on a regular basis.

Finance Committee / Treasurer's Report

Current Fund

- February Deficit (\$5,532.44)
- Year-to-Date (2 mos) Deficit (\$9,593)

Property Renovation Loan

- February Deficit (\$287)
- Year-to-Date (2 mos) Deficit (\$654)

Challenges and concerns were discussed at the Finance meeting about the first two months of 2019: low attendance and low offerings, weather impacts, aging congregation with several long-term members moving into Homewood, etc. In today's culture, a lot of sporting events are held on Sunday mornings, i.e. wrestling, dance, etc.

Financial Secretary will make an announcement prior to service on Sunday out the current giving situation as this will be highlighted in the Sunday's bulletin. We need to exhibit a positive giving trend as we seek to attract a new pastor.

No April Finance Meeting - Treasurer will be away; she will have information prepared. Assistant Treasurer to review with Council at next meeting.

Council Discussion: March has 5 Sundays, Lent, Easter and Strawberry Festival - will help our ytd deficits. We are in a position for a new pastor; doing very well, enjoyable. No sense why giving is down. Suggestion: Financial Secretary to Hand out/Mail Quarterly statements to members to remind them of their pledge for 2019 and their giving year-to-date.

Announcements

Stocking Stuffers

Christmas seems far away, but we need to prepare for the stockings all year round. Thank you to those who continually donate items for the project. We are finding that we have an average of 30 infant/toddler stockings that are difficult to fill due to the price of items for this age range. We would like to try a monthly collection project targeted towards the infants this year and away from the older kids. For 2019 we will be trying the following collection schedule:

March: Snack Bowls & Sippy Cups

April: Bibs & Board Books

May: Stuffed Animals (baby/small child appropriate 6-9 inches in size)

June: Wipes

July: Toiletry (wash/lotion, etc)

August: Toys (ages birth – 2 years old)

September: Baby Food/Baby Snack

Please place donations of new items in the red box by the side usher station. If you have any questions, please contact Billie Jo Kahler at bjok66@aol.com

The Mission Team Needs YOU

Support the Mission Team as a Shareholder or as a Prayer Partner!

Mission Possible: 2019 is heading to Wind River Reservation in Wyoming the end of next month and we could still use your support. We continue to strive for our \$2000 goal for the Shareholder Fundraiser. You can purchase a share of the trip either online on the GIVE tab of our web page or by giving money to any of the mission team members. Our traditional Shareholder Luncheon will be held August 11th. More details to come.

We would also ask for your support as a prayer partner. Each team member needs a Prayer Partner to keep them in prayer as we prepare and as we serve. If you are able to support the mission team in this way please see Belinda as soon as possible. You can contact her at daydrmr24@msn.com or 240-315-5030.

Thank you for once again supporting our youth in their endeavor to serve as Christ's hands and feet throughout the United States.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 2nd

Youth Sunday

Sunday, June 9th

Confirmation

Sunday, June 23rd

Mission Team Commissioning

