

# The Epistle

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2019

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

14 & 19 WEST PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, WALKERSVILLE, MD 21793

WWW.STPAULSLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG | 301-845-4600

## THANKS FOR COMING TO DINNER CHURCH

I just want to devote a paragraph or two to an event that took place during Holy Week at St. Paul's. I'm referring to the new thing we did on Maundy Thursday, namely, Dinner Church. Thank you to all who came and helped make this event special by their presence. Thank you to Delanie Burriss, Daniel Mildenstein, and Joey Valcarcel for performing the sermon skit. Thank you to Steven King for reading Psalm 22. Thanks to those who volunteered to read Scripture. Thanks to those who led us in prayer. Thanks to Belinda Burriss and Betsy Galliher for all the behind the scenes work they did to plan the event, to prepare the food, to clean the dishes, and to make sure everything happened that was supposed to happen.

And thanks to Jesus Christ, who once again gave us his body and blood, only in a slightly different setting than we normally experience it. We all received forgiveness of sin and the power for new life right there at the dinner table with our church friends. In the Bible, great things happen at the dinner table. Abraham experienced God there. The prodigal son was welcomed home there. Cleopas and his friend discovered the risen Christ there. And the people of St. Paul's Lutheran Church shared Jesus in a different way there on Maundy Thursday, 2019.



## Church Events

### Sunday, June 2

Youth Worship 9:30am

### Tuesday, June 4

Congregational Life 7pm

### Sunday, June 9

Worship - Confirmation 9:30am

### Monday, June 10

Finance 7pm

### Tuesday, June 11

Council 7pm

### Sunday, June 16

Worship 9:30am

### Sunday, June 23

Worship—Sending Sunday 9:30am

### Monday, June 24

Worship & Arts 7pm

### Tuesday, June 25

Executive Council 7pm

### Sunday, June 30

Worship 9:30am

## Pastoral Thoughts from Pastor Ron Schlak

### June, 2019

I'll bet you didn't know that June 29th is the feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. Tension exists between these two fellows. Saint Peter, who was granted the prime honor of being the chief among the apostles by our Lord, has become a favorite saint among Roman Catholics. Saint Paul, whose Epistles moved Luther and who was the chief missionary of the church, has become a favorite saint among Lutherans (especially Lutherans who worship at a church I know in Walkersville, MD). Saint Paul confronted Saint Peter over his treatment of the Gentiles and over the need for circumcision, and yet he affirms Peter's primacy. Saint Peter, known for his staunch "Jewishness", yet receives the vision of all things being declared clean by God and is received by the Roman, Cornelius, and is instrumental in sending Paul on his labors to the Gentiles. And in the end, in one of the most delicious ironies of the church, both Saint Peter and Saint Paul will be martyred in Rome, on the same day, almost at the same moment, just miles apart from one another.

The point? Simply that in Saint Peter and Saint Paul, we have a vivid example of the unity and dynamism of the church. In the example of Saints Peter and Paul, we see that the church is greater than any one person. The church has a unity that transcends our human divisions because the church exists because of our Lord. So it is that, despite everything that would seem to divide them one from another, Saints Peter and Paul are forever bound together.

Saints Peter and Paul, whose ministry embrace the whole Jewish and Gentile world, have been celebrated together since the earliest days of the church. The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul is one of the oldest recorded feast days on the calendar, being observed since at least 258 AD. From the earliest of times, tradition has maintained that the two men were martyred on the same day – Peter upon an upside down cross, Paul by beheading – in Rome, and their two basilicas (St. Peter's Basilica and Saint Paul's, Outside-the-Walls) have been two of the most important churches in the West.

Simon, son of Jonah, was a fisherman, working along the shores of the Sea of Galilee. We can infer from the Scriptures that he was married (he has a mother-in-law who Jesus cures of a fever), and tradition maintains that his wife accompanied Peter on missionary journeys. He received his new name, Peter (Greek, "Cephas" or "rock") from Jesus, in response to his confession of Jesus as "the son of the living God, the one who is coming into the world". Among the apostles, Peter occupies a special place, functioning increasingly as the chief apostle. As the church grew, Peter assumed greater and greater leadership after Pentecost. He turned also to missionary efforts, especially among the Jews, and his name is mentioned strongly in the history of the churches in Antioch, Corinth, and Rome.

Saul of Tarsus, who will become known as the "Apostle to the Gentiles," was a scholarly Jew whose tradition maintains, studied with the famed Rabbi Gamaliel in Jerusalem. A self-confirmed zealot, Saul was prominent in the persecution of the early church, overseeing the stoning of Stephen, the first Christian martyr. He received a new name – Paul –after meeting the resurrected and ascended Lord on the road to Damascus and being converted to Christianity. He undertook many missionary ventures, three of which are epic journeys. His epistles form the greater part of the New Testament and are often favorite readings of Christians.

Both Saint Peter and Saint Paul ended up being martyred in Rome, on June 29, of either 67 or 68 AD, under the Emperor Nero. Saint Peter suffered crucifixion, reportedly requesting to be crucified upside-down so as not to be confused with Jesus. Saint Paul, being a Roman citizen, was beheaded outside the city. Because of their importance and the shared date of martyrdom, they are celebrated together.



## Organ Repair

As many of you may be aware there have been difficulties over the past several years in keeping our organ in tune and in good repair. As we schedule tuning it becomes more and more difficult to tune and maintain the tuning. There have also been some electrical challenges. In March a small committee of Pastor Ron, Jeff Gentry, Nancy Cochran, Russ Mildenstein and I met with a representative of Lewis and Hitchcock, Inc. Lewis and Hitchcock Pipe Organ Builders has merged with Lawless Associates who have been tuning our organ for several years.

The following is an overview of the results of that meeting:

The organ was originally built by M. P. Moller of Hagerstown, MD in 1924. It was subsequently rebuilt by Moller in 1983. Rebuilds generally have a lifespan of approximately 40 years. Moller is no longer in business.

While there is plenty of good in the organ, it is showing signs of age and we have observed some concerns.

It may be helpful to think of the rebuild as a two-part plan:

(1) The console and control system

(2) The wind chests and pipework within the chamber

These two portions could be done at the same time or separately, as funds permit.

The work on the wind chests and the pipework could also be separated into two phases at a slightly higher total cost, due to duplication of work in removal and reinstallation. It would also be possible to postpone some of the re-leathering (eg. the Nazard and Tierce chests) until they start to be problematic.

As a new instrument of similar size and quality would cost \$330,000 or more today, by spending about 1/3 of that amount, the church can preserve its past investment in this organ and provide reliable service for many years to come. The work can be done in two steps at \$56,000 and \$43,000.

However, there are several additional options to consider in thinking of the future of music at St. Paul's.

The aforementioned repair or replacement are two options. We could also consider replacing the organ with an electronic instrument that can sound like any instrument we need at any given time.

**We must keep in mind all the ramifications of any decision we make:**

For instance, keeping our pipe organ entails the necessity of having an organist on staff. As you know that is becoming more and more difficult, as fewer and fewer musicians are choosing the organ as their instrument.

An electronic instrument can be played by a pianist to sound like a piano, an organ, a whole orchestra, or in extreme cases it can produce the music we need by pushing a button! These electronic instruments are not just a naked keyboard – they can be attractive in the sanctuary and would also allow extra space in the chancel with the removal of the organ and the pipes. The cost of an electronic instrument can range in price from \$5,000 to \$35,000. On behalf of the Worship and Arts Committee I thank you for your prayerful consideration of this information.

**Betsy Galliher  
Chair  
Worship and Arts Committee**



## Executive Committee

**April 30, 2019**

### Contract with Frederick East Classical, Inc

*Mary Ann Ferguson is working on the contract*

#### Frederick East Classical Information

- Closing Ceremony for 2018-2019 is May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at Calvary. Trish and Amy offered to be there to represent St. Paul's
- Open House for 2019-2020 at St. Paul's on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Belinda and Russ will be there to represent St. Paul's
- Carpool Drop-off and Pick-up Flow Change - Enter at Fulton Avenue and exit unto Pennsylvania Avenue. Less congestion on the roads
- Pictures of the renovated classrooms and basement vault (PH) are on St. Paul's website

#### Comcast Business Contract

*Trish Valcarcel is working with Comcast in checking our current and proposed WiFi needs/ costs*

- Need to increase the upload and download speeds (we are currently at the lowest speed)
- Not adding another account; not cost effective
- Add WiFi to church/education wing (i.e. live-streaming of worship service)
- Current Contract (expired) @ \$140 month (Triple Pay - business voice, cable and internet)
- Proposed 2 yr contract could cost \$140 to \$220/month; working on getting better/best service. Plus \$100 one-time activation fee + \$75 modem swap out.
- Another option: Point to Point device on the roof of PH and the Church (Bell Tower) for WiFi signal. Cost?

#### Noisy Change Collection

*We will be collecting noisy change in May to bring to the Synod Convention (May 31 to June 2). Youth will count/roll the change by Sunday, May 26th; Amy to deposit the coin rolls and issue a check.*

## Call Committee

**April 30, 2019**

*Call Members consist of Connie Chesnik, Ed Sell, Keith Horton, Johanna Waters, Billie Jo Kahler, Maddie Kahler (youth advisor), and Trish Valcarcel.*

The Call Committee shared a recommendation to the council to approve a new call process brought to them from the synod. This hybrid call process would involve a final year seminarian contracting with the council/church for the fall and spring semesters and working roughly a halftime schedule. The Vicar, as a final year student is known, would serve the congregation every Sunday, council meetings, regularly called congregational meetings, shut-ins, emergency visits and preside over the sacraments.

This new process would allow us as a congregation to really get to know a potential new Pastor (unlike the traditional style of one sermon preached and then a congregational vote). The Call Committee is very excited about this opportunity and that the synod has placed us at the top of their list for a high quality candidate.

Since we are on a great path for finding a permanent pastor, the executive council, staff relations and Pastor talked and agreed that Pastor Schlak's last day with St. Paul's would be June 23. Pastor was originally scheduled to be with St. Paul's for one year (which was January 2019), he then extended his time to help bridge the gap for us until June 2019. The leadership felt that we needed to give our compassion to the situation and honor Pastor's date for completing his assignment with us. Pastor Ron is excited about the opportunity to see his family more, travel with his wife and assist his brother (also a pastor) in New England.



## Vacation Time

Heading out of town this summer however still wish to give your tithe to St. Paul's? Consider easy enrollment in our Electronic giving program through our new and improved website:

<http://www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org/give>

## Mar-Lu-Ridge *Celebrates 60 Years of Community, Service, and Sanctuary*

In 1959 a faithful group of people from Baltimore congregations came to Jefferson Md and began the process of building a camp and retreat center for all people. Over the years, Mar Lu Ridge has grown and diversified, and it now serves thousands of campers and guests each year. Mar Lu Ridge's mission of faith formation for young people and the provision of a place of sanctuary remains strong.

You are invited to join Mar Lu Ridge on June 8 and 9 as we celebrate sixty years of ministry. All are welcome, whether you have been to the camp many times or this is your first visit. The camp is ready to share the joy and love of Christ with you! Family friendly activities include pool party, campfire, and worship.

Please visit the camp website at  
[www.mar-lu-ridge.org](http://www.mar-lu-ridge.org)

to access online registration and schedule of events.

## Dear St. Paul's members:

This has been a very unexpected and difficult time for me, but I am so appreciative for the love and caring from so many friends, church family and a few family members locally and in the Baltimore area..

Inspirational cards and messages, visits, phone calls and tasty treats have made these past few weeks so much more livable. Thanks to all of you who sent prayers and good wishes—for all the love and sharing.

One day at a time!

Love, Margaret Powers



***Congratulations to the 2019 Confirmands: Daniel Mildenstein, Katie King, Sophie Myer, Delanie Burris and Joey Valcarcel. Join us in celebrating their affirmation of baptism on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> during the 9:30am service.***



## Mission Possible 2019 Update:

Our 2019 Mission Team consists of 4 youth and 3 adults; Delanie Burris, Ryan Fulmer, Daniel Mildenstein, Joey Valcarcel, Russ Mildenstein, Jay and Belinda Burris. They will be departing for their week of service on June 30th, quite early in the morning. We will be commissioning the mission team at the service on June 23rd. You can still support the team through a donation to the Shareholder Program. Donations can be made through the church website or by giving it to Belinda or any team member. Would you like to pray for a team member while they are serving? Please contact Belinda if you are interested in serving the mission team through prayer. Thank you for your support again this year!

## Breaking GOOD News! VBS

This summer our VBS program is not only being offered to the children of our congregation and immediate community, but specifically other Lutheran churches who are struggling to provide a VBS for their children. We are excited to be able to host this event this summer and need VOLUNTEERS to help pull it off. If you can help August 5<sup>th</sup> - August 9<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm we have plenty of opportunities. Sign up sheets are on the side bulletin board or you can contact Belinda at [daydrmr24@msn.com](mailto:daydrmr24@msn.com). We will have a volunteer meeting after church on July 14<sup>th</sup> for all interested. And more exciting news—you can now easily register for VBS online through our website on the Children and Youth Ministry page!

The verse for the week is Isaiah 52:7, from The Message, "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger bringing good news. Breaking the news that all's well, proclaiming good times, announcing salvation, telling Zion, 'Your God reigns!'”

*St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Walkersville,*

*hosts its 25<sup>th</sup> Annual*

# German Dinner

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019, 3:00-7:00 pm

at the Walkersville Vol. Fire Co., 79 West Frederick St., Walkersville, MD

## "ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BUFFET"

Adults	\$18
Children (ages 5-12)	\$6
Under 5	Free
Carry-out available—	\$1.00 extra

*Pre-purchase tickets online via our website*

## LIVE German Music! | Bake Sale Arts & Crafts

### AUTHENTIC GERMAN CUISINE:

- |                 |              |                   |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| •Sauerbraten    | •Spaetzle    | •Bratwurst        |
| •Bauernwurst    | •Weisswurst  | •Sauerkraut       |
| •Cucumber Salad | •Red Cabbage | •Stringbean Salad |

**Dessert:** Bundt and assorted cakes

Coffee and Iced Tea included;

Oktoberfest beer and wine available for purchase.

*For more information, call Russ & Amy Mildenstein*

*Home (301) 845-2037 | Cell (301) 646-3304*

*Website: <http://www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org>*

*Email: [saintpaulslc@comcast.net](mailto:saintpaulslc@comcast.net)*



## Announcements

### MISSING -

Long handle spade shovel and one pair of men's gloves from the May 4<sup>th</sup> Spring Clean Up day.

If you found them please contact Russ Mildenstein or Candy Swet.

### GARDEN HELP -

We are in need of someone to weed the garden areas. It takes about one hour per week to maintain the flower beds.

If you are able to help, please contact Russ Mildenstein or Candy Swet.

### PROGRESSIVE DINNER -

Plans are being made for the Progressive Dinner to be held in October. If you would like to help with this activity, please contact Candy Swet.

*Also, two host houses are still needed.*



## Upcoming Events

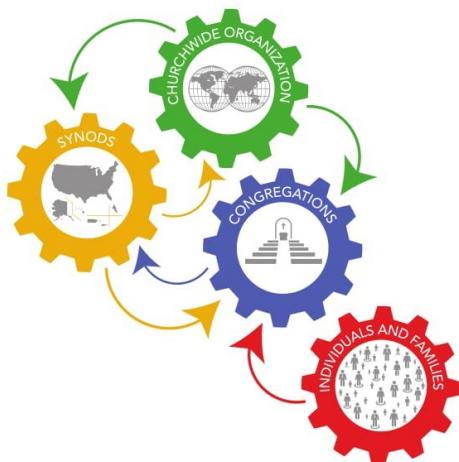
**July 1 - July 6 | Carnival Week**

**July 4 | Independence Day**

**July 14 | VBS Meeting**



# WHERE DOES MY OFFERING GO?



ELCA members in more than 9,300 congregations in the United States and Caribbean give approximately \$1.75 billion in regular offering to support ELCA ministries in their local communities and worldwide. When members give through their congregations, a percentage of that money is then shared with the local synod and the national churchwide organization.

This unrestricted giving, called Mission Support, gives us both the foundation and the fuel to do God's work in the world and a portion of the gifts circle back to support ministries in synods and local congregations. Of these unrestricted gifts, the churchwide organization receives around 2.6 percent. This represents the largest portion of the ELCA churchwide organization's operating budget.

## Your Mission Support helps fund the following churchwide ministries:

### Grow the ELCA in the United States



**357**

Plant and support  
357 new congregations.



Enable congregations to renew  
their ministries and reach out to  
their surrounding communities.

25%



Work together with our African Descent, American Indian and Alaska Native, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Latino/Latina members to develop networks and resources for ministry.



Develop and  
share resources  
for faith, discipleship,  
prayer and worship.

18%

### Grow the Lutheran church around the world



As a member of  
The Lutheran World Federation,  
we're in communion with 145  
member churches and directly  
connected to 85 companion  
churches in other countries.



Accompany new Lutheran churches,  
expand ministries, and train leaders  
and evangelists.



Send 230 missionaries to more than  
48 countries, including more than  
84 Young Adults in Global Mission  
in 11 country programs.

18%

### Provide coordination and support for churchwide ministries

**1.1 million**

Maintain constituent database,  
including 1.1 million records of rostered and  
lay leaders, members, donors and congregations.



Provide office space, equipment and  
human resources for staff and operations.

16%



Preserve and maintain  
archives and historic  
records of the ELCA and  
its predecessor bodies.

Equip congregations  
and synods with  
resources to assist in  
risk management and  
legal matters.



Process  
150,000 gifts  
to ELCA ministries.

## Support and develop current and future **leaders** in the ELCA

15%

**7**   
**26**

Support the work of seven ELCA seminaries and 26 colleges and universities.



**9,900**

Recruit, prepare and implement a system for the assignment of 9,900 rostered ministers.



Offer events and leadership opportunities for youth and young adults.



Identify, connect and provide ministry resources and opportunities for networking for lay leaders.

## Invest in **technology** and **communications**

8%

### Design and maintain communications tools

to strengthen our Lutheran identity and grow awareness of our church and its mission and ministries.



Connect members with one another through new technology and systems.

## Provide governance and leadership

5%

### Organize lay and clergy leaders from across the church to serve

on the governance boards and committees that provide guidance and oversight for ELCA ministries.

**65**



Coordinate meetings and support for 65 synodical bishops.

## Grow and sustain financial resources

5%



Develop and promote efforts related to stewardship education, financial literacy, mission interpretation and growth in giving to all church ministries.

## Address social issues and **work for justice**

4%



Engage in churchwide study and deliberation to create social statements and resources that address social, political, environmental and other public issues.



Equip members and leaders to advocate with lawmakers in order to support policies that promote justice and peace.

**1 in 50**

Support social ministry organizations, such as Lutheran Services in America, to impact the lives of **1 in 50** Americans.

Your designated gifts to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response provide additional funds annually to address hunger, poverty and suffering around the world.

## Engage in **research** and **strategic planning**

2%

Research and analyze trends that impact the ELCA and develop innovative strategies to improve mission and ministry in the 21st century.



## Sustain **ecumenical** and **interfaith relationships**

2%

Facilitate dialogue and common action among communities of other faiths, including the development of resources and communications for ELCA congregations.



Seek unity in faith and life with all Lutherans and six full communion partners.