

The Epistle

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER 2019

Saint Paul's Lutheran Church
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Year End Offering Challenge

This year Saint Paul's has again been challenged! An anonymous donor approached the leadership with a \$2,000 matching gift to help offset any year end deficit.

If members of the congregation can contribute \$2,000 over and above their normal giving, this anonymous member will match that \$2,000 contribution! If you are writing a check, please include "challenge" on the memo line. If you give a cash offering, place it in one of the pew envelopes and write "challenge" on it. If you give online, choose the general fund and make a comment that says "challenge".


The deadline for the challenge is December 29th! We have successfully raised the money each time the challenge has been issued in the past, so let's continue this wonderful tradition!

Church Calendar

- Nov. 3rd – All-Saints Sunday
- Nov. 5th – Congregational Life
- Nov 9th – Youth Yard Sale
- Nov. 11th – Soup Kitchen
- Nov. 11th – Finance Committee
- Nov 11th – Veterans Day
- Nov. 12th – Council
- Nov. 17th – Thank Offering & Blessing of the Quilts
- Nov. 24th – Stocking Stuffer
- Nov. 26th – Executive Council
- Nov. 26th – Utica Community Thanksgiving Worship
- Nov. 28th – Thanksgiving Day– Office Closed
- Nov. 29th – Black Friday – Office Closed

Clothing Closet Thank You!

Congregational Life sends a huge thank you to the following folks for volunteering their time and talents on Saturdays during October in serving at the GVCS Clothes Closet: Troy, Ellen, Jann, Betsy, Mary Ann, Patty, April, Deb and Sheila. Mark your calendars for October 2020, St. Paul's will be running the Clothing Closet again on Saturdays. Teens looking for community service hours are welcome to help out too!



Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Consecration Celebration Reflections

From Chairperson Sheila Kahler:

Thank you to everyone for participating in the Consecration Sunday events on October 20th: Q&A on Stewardship with Keith Mundy (our guest speaker from ELCA Chicago Office), worship service, and the celebration luncheon. We had a good turnout at all of the events. A thank you to all those involved with Consecration Sunday Programs, especially Keith Mundy- guest speaker on Oct 20th and our mentor in the planning this event, Pastor Chris Litton- guest speaker at the Leader Dinner, Finance & Stewardship Committee (Troy, Amy, Artie, Jim and Gary), and to our Temple Talk Speakers (Gary, Ed and Trish). Some takeaways from the worship service to share...

- What is our mindset (attitude) as individuals in helping out in various ministries at St. Paul's: at home, in the workplace, etc.?
- Is it a duty (I "got" to do it) or is it a delight (I "get" to it)? Sometimes something we do might start out as a duty and turns into a delight.
- How do we model gratitude and generosity? We do this by modeling the life of Christ at home, at church, in our communities, and to the larger world. Be a witness to your faith.
- How do we use and share our blessings with the congregation?



Vicar's Valley

We have spent much time these last few weeks talking about what it is to be a good steward and many of you may be growing weary of the discourse.

I can understand, especially for those of you who are faithful in your devotion to God, this can be tiring and redundant. However, I believe that it is important for us to cultivate new stewards in our midst so that they can carry on the legacy of the wonderful things that have been done here at St. Paul's; in Walkersville; and abroad. We can ill afford to allow our progress to go by the wayside because we get tired and feel that there is no way to keep going. I will echo the word I shouted at the German Dinner, **Bestaendigkeit**, the ability to transcend whatever challenges must be faced. For that is what has personified St. Paul's to be the force it has been for the last 128 years and for another 128 to come. But the endurance or grace that has been the pillar by which St. Paul's stands is not the only thing, nor is it the reason we are the family we have become. Christ in our lives is the true **Bestaendigkeit** who is the driving force that gives us hope for the future because of God's gift of Grace through Christ's death and resurrection.

As has been spoken about in our Temple talks, sermons, dinners, and seminars it is not all about being a financial steward, yet that is an important facet of faithful stewardship within our church. We are looking at ways to enhance our vision and mission, as well as to build on the legacy of service that so many of you have been an integral part. Are there those of you out there who are feeling the call to be a part of the vision at St. Paul's? If so, there are ways for you to be the new driving force. We are looking for people to assist in developing our new logo and to assist in worship on a variety of levels. We are looking for those of you who will be the new legacy for St. Paul's and work cooperatively to look at our mission statement to discern if that fits our current situation or goals. We are looking for you to be disciples of the church and bring the Good News to your neighbors, friends, co-workers, and especially the stranger.

As we move towards Thanksgiving and into the Advent season, we give thanks for what God has given us and that we have been blessed through God with our time, our talents, and our possessions. Please join me in being thankful stewards willing to share our gifts with those around us. Do not be afraid to step out of your comfort zone and offer yourself as a faithful steward in our church.

We are thankful for our Lord, Jesus Christ who was given to us as the most precious gift of our Loving God. We are thankful for the sacrifice made for us for the forgiveness of sin and entrance into eternal life with Christ by our side. I am thankful for the opportunities that are developing at St. Paul's and look forward to growing with you and making our visions a reality. I anticipate great things are and will continue to occur as we grow our church family. Join us in being the driving force in our stewardship and growth.

— Vicar Phil

Sunday November 24th , 11 AM—1 PM

LAUNCH, St. Paul's new family and youth ministry program, will be gathering to fill this year's Christmas Stockings for the GVCS Holiday Toy Shoppe. Be on the lookout this month for tags with specific needed items and return them to church by the 24th so they can fill the stockings. We invite one and all to help kick off the Christmas season with this yearly tradition- the stuffing of the stockings!!

Saturday Nov, 9th

A special sneak peek sale will happen **Friday, Nov. 8th from 4-7PM.** Donations for the sale

can be dropped off in the Parish Hall beginning Thursday, Nov. 7th

from 9am-1pm or 6pm-8pm and

Friday, Nov. 8th from 9am to 4pm. Donations cannot be

stored before that time, please

bring them on Thursday or

Friday. The sale will help

replenish the Mission Fund as

well as support the new Family and

Youth Program- LAUNCH. Please see

Belinda for questions or to help with set up or

the sale. Contact her at 240-315-5030 or

youthandfamily@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org

-- Thank you for your support!

Monday Nov. 11th

Ever thought of volunteering at the Soup Kitchen?

Join us as we serve dinner at the Soup Kitchen in Frederick on Monday, November 11th.

We will be departing St. Paul's at 4pm and returning at approximately 7:30pm. If you can donate a pan of

brownies for dessert or some cornbread muffins, please let me

know. We will be preparing to

serve 100 people on that Veterans

Day. Can't make it that day? Mark

your calendars for Monday, December 30th-we'll be back at it! If you are

interested in helping serve please sign up with

Belinda at 240-315-5030 or

youthandfamily@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org.

Save
the
Date

Announcements

MEALS MINISTRY FROM CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: Prepared casseroles are available in the Parish Hall chest freezer for any St. Paul's member to use or give away. Serving size is 1-2 or 3-4

TURKEY TREE: During November, The Turkey Tree will be available to help out the GVCS Food Bank with monetary donations towards Thanksgiving meals. Place cash or checks (payable to St. Paul's; memo: Turkey Tree) in a brown envelope and place it in the offering plate. Thank you for your donation!

SAINT PAUL'S UTICA COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING: St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Utica will host the Lewistown-Utica Community Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 26, 7:00 p.m. Tori Valcarcel will be speaking about her year of service in South Africa and reflecting on "Giving thanks to God". Refreshments will be served in St. Paul's Fellowship Hall immediately following the worship service. The offering will support the Thurmont Ministerium's several helping ministries, including the Thurmont Food Bank.

December Sneak Peek

LOVE BOXES

Last year we packed 32 "Love Boxes" that were given to the recently bereaved, shut-in, and elderly members of our church community. On Sunday, December 15, at 3 PM we will once again be packaging these boxes of love. The boxes have already been purchased so we will not be needing shoe boxes, but are requesting cookies, fruit, candy, and packaged crackers to help us complete this project. Afterward, we will share Christmas fellowship and dessert. If you would like to participate in this event, please contact Candy Swet at crswet@gmail.com or on her cell at 412-721-8836. Thank you!

CHRISTKINDL MART



The annual Christkindl Mart will be December 7th starting at 11am. We will be grilling bratwurst, roasting nuts and serving non-alcoholic Glühwein out in front of the Parish Hall, with crafts and tort slices for sale inside. To prepare, Wendy Brundage will host a craft work day on the 13th of November at 9:30 am, in her home at 2010 Burnside Dr. Frederick. No special talent required, just the ability to glue and fold! You are also more than welcome to just come have a cup of coffee and chat. Sign-up sheets will be put out in the first week of November. Bonnie Liens has worked very hard in scheduling a variety of activities for the day:

Saint Nicholas Day Celebrations with paper shoes for children to fill with candy

Workshops hosted at Abloom

Live music from bell ringers and ballet by Katie King

Storytime with Mrs. Claus at the Walkersville Library

Various vendors and food at the UCC and Methodist Churches

Wreath Lighting & Luminaries at dusk on the road by Five Points hosted by the Girl Scouts

Light displays by the residents of Walkersville

And Much More!!

A beautiful day of fun and festivities for the season is planned, so please consider participating and inviting your friends and neighbors to come join us. Check the event website at www.walkersvillechristkindlmarket.com or the Facebook Page at

Walkersville Christkindl Mart.