



The Epistle

MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER | SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | 14 & 19 W. PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE | WALKERSVILLE, MD 21793
WWW.SAINTPAULSLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG | 301-845-4600

Notice of a Special Congregational Meeting to Call a Pastor

On March 29, 2020, immediately following worship, we will be holding a *Special Congregational Meeting* for the SOLE purpose to vote on Calling Vicar Phil Beck as our new Pastor. This is the time to have your voice and vote heard!! During this meeting the ONLY topic that can be discussed and voted on is for the Call. We will have Pastor Robin Simpson-Litton here as our DE-MD Synod representative to run the meeting and voting. Your leadership is thankful for all the prayers and support during this journey and we are excited about what this next chapter may hold for St. Paul's as a community centered in Christ.

Who is our Vicar and HOW did he get here?

Please join us after worship Sunday, March 1st, for fellowship and to find out more about who may lead Saint Paul's into this exciting new chapter!

Are you a THRIVENT member?

Please Did you know that you have until March 31st to designate your 2019 Choice Dollars before they are lost? Did you know that last year St. Paul's was blessed with \$1620.00 from the Choice Dollars program? You can log-in to your Thrivent account, choose "Direct Choice Dollars" from the "MY THRIVENT" tab at the top and direct your dollars. And you can always call the Thrivent office to help you as well at 800-847-4836. If you need assistance, please see Amy or Belinda.

Church Events

- Mar 1st — Worship, "Who is our Vicar and how did he get here?"
- Mar 3rd — Congregational Life
- Mar 4th — Soup & Sandwich, Lenten Devotion
- March 9th — Finance Committee
- Mar 10th — Council
- Mar 11th — Soup & Sandwich, Lenten Devotion
- Mar 12th — Youth Yard Sale
- Mar 13th & 14th — Indoor Yard Sale
- Mar 18th — Soup & Sandwich, Lenten Devotion
- Mar 23rd — Worship & Arts
- Mar 24th — Executive Council
- Mar 25th — Soup & Sandwich, Lenten Devotion
- Mar 29th — Congregational Vote

Summer is Coming & that means— SUMMER CAMPS!!

St. Paul's is blessed to once again offer camperships to those attending a 2020 Christian summer camp, such as Mar-Lu-Ridge. If you are interested in applying for a campership, please complete an application with camp specifics by March 22nd. Completed applications should be returned to the Parish Hall office "Christian Education" mailbox. Applications can be found on the side bulletin board in the church or the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Determinations for amounts will depend on the number of applicants and funds available. Each applicant will be contacted at the end of March. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Belinda Burriss at youthandfamily@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org or 240-315-5030.

Children & Family Ministry

The Peg and Orley Bourland Educational Assistance Fund is NOW awarded YEAR-ROUND through Glade Valley Community Services and The Community Foundation of Frederick.

This scholarship is to provide financially need-based funds for post-secondary education in trade, vocational or technical fields to help defray the costs associated with tuition, fees, testing, tutoring, trade tools and supplies, etc.

Applicants' eligibility requirements are:

- ♦ *must be a resident of Walkersville feeder school areas*
- ♦ *must describe their financial need, career goals and specify how the funds will be used*
- ♦ *must be enrolled in an accredited post-secondary educational program*

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- ⇒ Preference is given to applicants who are pursuing vocational, technical and skilled trade fields (not 4 year degrees)
 - ⇒ The award(s) can be any amount needed but will not exceed \$1000 per fiscal year (July 1-June 30)
 - ⇒ Applications are due a minimum of 30 days prior to when the funds need to be paid High School, Career and Technology Center
 - ⇒ Applications are available at: Glade Valley Food Bank, Walkersville Public Library, Walkersville Town Hall, Woodsboro Town Hall, FCC and The Community Foundation of Frederick. They are also available online at Naviance (WHS) and for printing online at www.GladeValley.org. For more information, call the GVCS Office at 301-845-0213.

THE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL IS NEAR

The first Strawberry Festival meeting will be held on: Tuesday, March 3, 2020
7:00pm, Parish Hall

Any and all are invited to take part in the mission of putting together this exciting Festival. Please see Debbie Loso after church, or call the office 301-845-4600 to volunteer. There are many jobs to sign up for.



LENTEN SOUP & SANDWICHES

Lenten Soup and Sandwiches begins Wednesday, March 4 in the Parish Hall. If you signed up to bring soup or sandwiches, THANK YOU SO MUCH! The sign-up sheet is posted on the hall bulletin board for your reference. The sign-up sheet also includes important information regarding when to take soup and/or sandwiches to the Parish Hall

Community

The council voted, upon recommendation of the Congregational Life Committee, the monthly local benevolence of \$100 will go to the Heartly House.



PARENT'S NIGHT OUT (PNO) March 20th 5pm-10pm

Parents of children ages 4 to 10 are invited to register for our new monthly Parents Night Out event. There is no fee for this evening of fun. Dinner will be provided along with an evening snack, so please make sure to indicate any food intolerances when registering. Space is limited, please email youthandfamily@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org, you will be sent a quick form to complete and return. We look forward to a great time Friday, March 20th.

To our St. Paul's members- if you are interested in helping during our PNO event please contact Belinda to sign up. These monthly PNO events are in response to suggestions made during our congregational meeting and in effort to revitalize our children's ministry by offering opportunities that serve families in our community. We need your help to make it work, so prayerfully consider how you can help with the faith formation of the next generation.



It's Time for a SPRING CLEAN OUT! YOUTH YARD SALE—March 13th & 14th

The spring youth group yard sale is scheduled for March 14th from 8am until 2pm. The preview sale will begin at 4pm on Friday evening. Donation drop off will be Friday, March 13th from 8am until 4pm. Thursday evening donation drop off will also be available, March 12th 6:30pm-8pm. We encourage anyone who would like to support the youth ministry here at St. Paul's to help out during the sale as well. We could always use extra hands, with sorting and selling, so, any time you have available to help that weekend is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support!



EASTER BREAKFAST

Once again, we will be serving breakfast between services in the social hall on Easter Sunday. A table will be set up in the Sunday School rooms for anyone who doesn't want to walk downstairs. All are welcome for this time of food and fellowship. We hope to see you there!

Vicar's Valley

Greetings:

February 26, 2020 marked the beginning of our Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday and the imposition of ashes. How many of us have taken the time to think back and ruminate on what Lent means to us in our daily lives?

Lent is the time in which we spend our days remembering the sacrifice of Christ and equate this journey with the 40 days He was in the wilderness. We are given this opportunity to take the next 40 days to ponder our relationship with God, with others in our lives, and prayerfully consider how we can better fulfill our commission to love one another. Lent is the season of the church marked by purple paraments with no additional adornments to the sanctuary such as altar flowers and the like. It is also a time where we will refrain from using Alleluia or the Gloria in our worship because it is a time of contemplation and reflection leading up to the Good News of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. It is a time for us to enter into a prayer filled life knowing that we need not be afraid for Christ is always with us to the end of days.

We have spent the last couple of weeks hearing how Jesus is bringing the relationship of God to humanity. Jesus is providing us with affirmation, instruction, and the confirmation that He is with us always and modeling his life is the way towards being in the kingdom of heaven. God's kingdom is here and now, the relationship of Christ is always with us and we are called to live out that relationship with him as we journey to the cross. It is not enough to just hear the words. We have been provided with the tools necessary to take this journey and to put into action what we are called to do as disciples of Christ.

Search your heart and pray deeply about how you can be the positive change in your community and your church. There are opportunities for you to serve and be served, to witness and be witnessed, to be the steward of God's goodness in your lives, and to honor all that Christ means for you in this life and beyond. During this season of contemplation, prayer, and discernment find a way to let your light be the beacon of hope and your journey with Christ a sign of God's Love.



Peace

Vicar Phil

Email: pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org

Cell phone: 202-497-0584

Summer Tickets to Hershey Park

GSNC Troop 37094 is proud to sponsor your ticket sales this year! Please see flyer for details! They will be located at the Usher Stations in the church and the Parish Office. You can contact Kay Wachter or call the Parish office for more details.



Blessing Bag Project with the Frederick County Lutheran Youth Collab!!

The first meeting of the FCLY went well on February 9th. There were 5-6 churches represented and about 20 students. We watched a video by the Marvel Hero Project about Jakhil who began distributing Blessing Bags to homeless in Chicago when he was 5. Check out his website (www.officialprojectiam.com) for the full story—it's inspiring. WE were inspired and have issued a challenge to bring 5 Blessing Bags per student to our next meeting where the bags will be distributed by the youth the those struggling with homelessness in Frederick.

Can we ask you to help with our challenge? Could you help provide items for the Blessing Bags and would you help assemble them? Please see the picture list for items needed- we are aiming for 30 bags for our students to take to the next meeting in May. There will be a collection box near the side entrance of the church throughout March and April. We will be meeting after church on April 19th to construct the bags; this will be our LAUNCH event for April and all are invited to help. If you have any questions you can contact Belinda or Vicar Phil.



Security Protocols and the Membership Directory

You may have heard about the scammer last month who assumed the Vicar's identity to try and procure gift cards. We have determined that the information was gleaned from our online Epistle. To prevent this type of situation we will have a "clean" version of the Epistle posted on the website, which will only list the church's office phone number. If you need event information the office will be able to provide that to you. In case of an emergency, there will be a contact number available on the voicemail during off hours, so you will always have a way to reach out when needed. The printed and emailed copies will still have personal contact information of event coordinators, if they wish.

Privacy and the membership directory. To further safeguard against future scam attempts, the office will no longer be able to give out personal information of another member. We will be able to take your information and pass it on to whom you are trying to reach, they can then contact you at their convenience. To ensure we are able to communicate with each other, the following directory protocol will be in place effective March 1s

- 1.) The Membership Directory will be maintained and distributed to the congregation annually, preferably at the Congregational Meeting The Council and Committee Chairs will receive an updated copy every 6 months.
- 2.) In an effort to reduce paper waste, we will be sending the directory out via email in a pdf format, similar to the Epistle. If you wish to request a hard, paper copy you may do so by contacting the office or by requesting it on the RCR card throughout the month of March.
- 3.) In the past, directories have been available at the usher stations and by the phones. This will no longer be the practice to in order to prevent our membership's information falling into the hands of someone outside of the membership.

If you have any questions or concerns about these new policies, please direct them to a council member to be discussed at their next meeting.



Holy Week

April 8th 6:30pm Last Soup & Sandwich and Lenten Devotion

April 9th Maundy Thursday Dinner Church at 6:00pm

April 10th Good Friday Service 7:00pm

April 11th Children's Easter Egg Hunt 3:00pm

April 12th Easter Day Services 8:30 am & 11:00am with Breakfast in between