

# EPISTLE

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

**\*\*\*THE TIME IS HERE!!!\*\*\***

Notice of a *Special Congregational Meeting* to Call a Pastor  
**IS HAPPENING MAY 3RD**

*Please have your ballot filled out and follow the  
directions in the letter from your Council President,  
Trisha Valcarcel.*

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.

## May Birthday Celebrations

May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Keith Horton & Luke Zeller
May 4 <sup>th</sup>	Kay Wachter
May 5 <sup>th</sup>	Lauren Johnson
May 12 <sup>th</sup>	Thomas Kutz
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Connie Chesnik
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	Marie Purswell & J.T. Valcarcel
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Jeff King
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	Milton Denn
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Cassie King
May 28 <sup>th</sup>	Ellen Bucheimer
May 29 <sup>th</sup>	Brenda Bruning
May 29 <sup>th</sup>	Dustin Burriss
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	Troy Keeney & Linda Yopp



# Vicar's Valley

Christ is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!

We are certainly going through some strange times together and I am thankful for the grace that has been extended as we work through our new worship reality. A core group of folks have been working diligently in the background so that we can stay together as community to share the Good News. We have limited this group intentionally to ensure the safety of all of our members and to stay within the guidelines set out by the Governor's Executive Orders. There is nothing that we would like more than to be together in person sharing fellowship, scripture, and prayer. We are optimistic that this will indeed come with time, though I am sure many of you are frustrated with the sequestration.

As a result of our stay at home orders, we unfortunately, made the decision to cancel the Strawberry Festival. I was looking forward to sharing my first one with you this year as it seems that we are missing more things as the time of uncertainty continues. We must be faithful that this too shall pass and in due time we will be back stronger than ever. In an effort to stay connected, we have begun our "Gathered at the Table" discussions on Facebook Live each Wednesday at noon. The focus of these discussions is to get back to our faith roots to explore what we as Christians, and especially Lutheran Christians believe. We started out with a discussion on communion, the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostle's Creed in which we welcomed comments or questions from those gathered or even ones submitted in advance. To date, we have had about 25 participants or viewers joining us and participating in the discussion. If you have a topic or question that you would like to see addressed at "Gathered at the Table", I invite you to email or call the office with your submission. We are going to endeavor to post the week's topic on Monday so you can be ready for the event on Wednesday.

So far, we have been able to navigate our way through virtual church in a variety of formats. We livestream on Facebook, Sunday at 0925, a video of the service is recorded and uploaded to the St. Paul's YouTube channel ([https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSP6I9JEpgsBUXlow117\\_-Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSP6I9JEpgsBUXlow117_-Q)), and the sermons are posted on Facebook (typically Sunday after worship). I am also in the process of uploading the sermons to YouTube as it has been suggested the quality may be better in that format. We are also investigating new modes of technology that will enhance our worship experience and take the burden off using personal property to accomplish our goals. It is also our hope that even when we return to in-person worship, we will continue to offer our services on-line as we have been able to reconnect with members who have not been able to be with us for a variety of reasons.

By the time you receive this edition of the Epistle, it is anticipated that our webpage will have been updated to make it easier to navigate with quick links to Facebook and YouTube. We are anxious to hear your feedback regarding your worship experience and how we might do better in the future. Again, we are grateful for your grace as we navigate uncharted waters.

Peace, Vicar Phil

Email: [pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org)  
Cell phone: 202-497-0584

Jesus said, "Behold, I am with you  
always, to the close of the age."  
Matthew 28:20.



# Council's Corner

As we prepare to turn our calendars over and share in May's flowers, we at St. Paul's are finding our stride with the current pandemic protocols. We are becoming much more educated (but not quite proficient LOL) on live-streaming and recording our services! Hopefully, many of you have been able to watch at least one of those services. Although we are using 'borrowed' equipment right now we are researching information about some new equipment to help us in our quest to share God's Good News!

Another piece of exciting news—we will be holding our Call Vote on May 3, 2020. This is the time for voting members to cast their ballot YES or NO to call Vicar Phil Beck as our Pastor. By the time you receive this Epistle, you will have received a letter with instructions and a ballot(s) on how the vote will specifically occur. The vote will begin at 11am as a 'drive in' meeting in the Walkersville Fire Hall parking lot. We must do it this way to stay in compliance with the current social distancing guidelines as of April 20, 2020. The only purpose of this short gathering is to hold the Call Vote. Pastor Robin Simpson-Litton will be in attendance as our Synod representative. Only Council/Call members helping with the vote will be out of their cars, everyone else must stay in their vehicles. This will happen RAIN or SHINE! (Members must be present in person to cast your vote, no proxy or absentee votes will be accepted.) We are very excited that the Synod has allowed us the benefit to hold this vote and use St. Paul's as a model for the other congregations waiting for these votes to occur as well. As always, if you have questions, call the church office 301-845-4600 and Joann will connect you with the correct person.

Additionally, at our monthly council video conference meeting, the council unanimously voted to continue our facility agreement with Frederick East Classical for the 2020-2021 school year (which begins 9/1/2020) FEC and Kim Jernigan, its director, have been such a blessing to St. Paul's in numerous ways (Cleaning our Social Hall floor until it gleamed! Cleaning the nursery contents; many volunteers helped during last year's property clean-up day, even before beginning their use of St. Paul's facilities; used a 'snow day' to disinfect both buildings in January, and countless other ways!) As soon as it is safe and current guidelines are lifted, FEC and St. Paul's will partner to make sure that all of our spaces are clean and ready for all to use without concern for cross contamination of Covid-19 (and hopefully many other viruses.)

Your leadership continues to work together with our staff, listening to you, the congregant, about how we can continue to share God's Good News and be a blessing in your life and the lives of others.

*For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. 2 Corinthians 1:5*

In His Service,  
Trisha



# Operating Through Our Changing Times

We have been navigating new ways of worshiping over the past several weeks and we are still a work in progress. We are also learning so much and still honing our skills in the video-recording and live streaming avenues! Below is the link you can click on to see Sunday services and our Wednesday “Gathered at the Table”. This is thru YouTube and you watch it once and be done OR you can subscribe to our channel and you will be notified as soon as there is a new video!

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSP6I9JEpgsBUXlow117\\_-Q/featured](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSP6I9JEpgsBUXlow117_-Q/featured)

We are live streaming every Sunday at 9:25am and “Gathered at the Table” is every Wednesday at noon. This can be accessed by our web page:

<https://www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org/>

or you can go direct to our facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/saintpaulslutheranofwalkersville/>



## Glade Valley Community Services

### Glade Valley Food Bank

- \* Donations for the Food Bank are always accepted.
- \* Items of particular need are: cereal, Canned fruit, crackers, shampoo and conditioner and toilet paper.
- \* Please bring them to the donation bin on the side of Town Hall

**Strawberry Festival  
Walkersville Days  
St. Paul's Thrift Shop**

**Cancelled  
Cancelled  
Closed until further notice,  
(please hold donations until  
we re-open)**

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Sue Snyder has several face masks that she is happy to donate if anyone needs them! She has one fabric and 10 factory made masks. Contact the Parish Office to connect with Sue!**