



EPISTLE

Welcome

Saint Paul's is a Parish of faith, strength and perseverance, and we embrace these changing times.

If you remember, last year at this time, the Call Committee shared a recommendation to the council to approve a new call process brought by the Synod. It was a hybrid call process that would involve a final year seminarian contracting with the council/church for the fall and spring semesters and working a halftime schedule. This Vicar would serve the congregation every Sunday, council meetings, regularly called congregational meetings, Shut-ins, emergency visits and preside over the sacraments.

This process allowed us to really get to know Vicar Phil Beck. Although this process was far from the traditional style of one sermon preached and then a congregational vote, it was just the beginning of continued opportunities to embrace change, pull together using our faith and strength to persevere.

With the unprecedented times we are living in right now and COVID19, we still managed to have the most unique and well attended Call Vote in any recent memories.

St. Paul's is blessed to announce that we have officially called Seminarian, Phil Beck, to be our permanent Pastor. We are hoping that we will be able to celebrate the ordination of Vicar Phil in late August of 2020.

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18



June Birthday Celebrations

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| June 3 | Alexis Bush |
| June 7 | Billie Jo Kahler |
| June 11 | Annabelle Bush
Dennis Cavell |
| June 13 | Sophie Myer |
| June 16 | Charles Covell |
| June 17 | John Fradiska |
| June 18 | Donna Maye Seaton |
| June 22 | Shirley Eyler
Raymond Pettingall
Edward Sell |
| June 23 | Mary Ann King |
| June 24 | Belinda Burriss
Jensen Fellows |

Vicar's Valley



Christ our Advocate is with us, guiding us on right pathways!

I would first like to thank the members of St. Paul's for your overwhelming support and the outpouring of love that was exhibited on May 3, 2020 during the vote to call me as your pastor. Sue and I were extremely impressed and felt a sense of home when we were called to the parking lot and saw the number of folks who were able to show up to vote. I look forward to our time ahead as we find new ways to navigate spreading the Gospel to our neighbors.

Some of you may have some questions as to why the vote was held at that time or why it had been scheduled for March 29, 2020. A lot of this has to do with me being a recently graduated seminarian and the need to be ordained as a minister of Word and Sacrament. In the normal scheme of things, a pastor already ordained would just need the vote then the congregation could go on with plans for the installation and formal reception of the candidate as your pastor.

However, seminarians have an extra step in the process which requires the celebration of ordination rites in the assembly of the church. Before ordination can occur, a seminarian must first receive a call from a congregation, hence the need for the Call Vote. As such, believing that I had found the place in St. Paul's where I felt I was being called, I contacted the Bishop's Office in late January to schedule a date for ordination and for installation. Ordination would have occurred on May 17, 2020 following my graduation from Seminary on May 15, 2020 but due to current circumstances, that was not possible. We were hopeful for June 7, 2020, but again that is not going to come to fruition. These dates were merely placeholders on the Bishop's calendar and did not in any way signify that there was no need for the congregation to complete its own discernment process. One important step in that process is to find time when the Bishop has availability to participate in the ordination ceremony.

I understand that many of you were concerned that you had to vote in person and that proxy votes were not permitted to be accepted. This may have excluded some people from participating in the vote which was not the intent of your leadership. Your constitution and the constitution of the ELCA specifically address this requirement. This requirement would have held true even if we had been able to meet in the church. I believe that once this pandemic is under control not only will the ELCA be looking to make amendments to the constitution, but St. Paul's will be as well.

One aspect of our journey thus far that makes St. Paul's unique, is that you and I both had the opportunity to grow together and begin our relationship for an extended period of time. In normal circumstances, a congregation hears a potential candidate preach one time, then needs to make their decision based on that small window. I have been blessed to be in your midst since last September, giving you the opportunity to know me for a greater period of time before having to make a milestone decision. Your witness at the Call Vote has certainly made my journey to this point fulfilling and brimming with promise.

The Call Vote is what makes it possible for me to be ordained, so having that vote concluded assisted your leadership in conferring with the Bishop's Office for new potential dates. We are now hoping that August 30, 2020 will allow us to be back to in-person worship for ordination. I continue to remain under the Bishop's special authority to conduct myself as an ordained pastor and am looking forward to the time when we can celebrate together. Should you have any questions, concerns, or would otherwise just like to talk about the process, I am glad to speak with you at any time.

Peace

Vicar Phil

Email: pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org

Cell phone: 202-497-0584





Council's Corner

At the date of this distribution, all members should have received a mailed letter from your Council leadership regarding the summary of the Call Vote, and the planning process for how and when we can open the sanctuary doors for worship.

Both Council and the Worship and Arts Committee have been working faithfully to research and review all possible avenues and options on how we can reopen our physical doors safely.

There are several important considerations we face when looking to reopen. First, we must abide by the federal, state, and local laws regarding businesses and places of worship. Second, we must consider the insurance for the church- moving hastily and without proper planning has cost other churches insurance coverage. Thirdly, we also look to the DE-MD Synod for examples and guidance on reopening as an ELCA church. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, we must do what is best for St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Walkersville.

We are a congregation full of people with Spirit and longing to worship as community, and we must also recognize that many of our flock belong to high risk categories as identified by the CDC and current knowledge about COVID-19 and who it impacts most. We want to do everything we can to ensure the physical safety of those who are older or suffer from complicating factors such as long term illnesses and compromised immune systems, while still remaining a support for the spiritual well being of all our congregation.

Please know that as we develop our Action Plan for reopening, St. Paul's is always here for you. Reach out to Vicar Phil, the council leadership, and each other. Take part in online worship and our midweek discussions. Make use of daily devotions and set aside time to spend with Scripture.

Exodus 15:2

The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him



Gathered at The Table

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The Wednesday Facebook round table discussions have been an opportunity to explore the foundations of our faith together in a new way. We've covered topics like the Apostle's Creed, Prayer, Baptism and Confession. We plan to continue this exploration with your help. What topics would you like to see addressed? What faith questions do you have? You can submit them to the office or directly to the Vicar. We hope to continue with this new venue and will be looking for someone to join our panel as Tori begins her new journey at seminary, if you are interested again please contact the office or the Vicar. Hope you are enjoying these discussions and we look forward to virtually seeing everyone on Wednesdays at Noon on Facebook.

Blood Drive

Blood Drive- June 10th from 10am-4pm in the Parish Hall.

Appointments can be made through the Red Cross website- search "St Pauls Lutheran Walkersville" or follow the link <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=St%20Pauls%20Lutheran%20Walkersville>. No walk-ins can be accommodated due to social distancing guidelines. You will also be required to wear a mask during your donation. Please consider this tangible way to help your neighbor. If you have questions or concerns please contact the office.

Soup Kitchen

Soup Kitchen

St. Paul's was able to still serve our community through the Soup Kitchen on May 24th. With social distancing practices and face coverings we prepared 130 bagged meals to be distributed by Frederick Community Action Agency. Since we are not able to serve the vulnerable in our community in person, we put our commercial kitchen to good use. Thank you to all who donated items, since things needed to be individually wrapped it helped stretch our Thrivent Action Team funds a little further. And thank you to those who donned their face coverings to prepare and pack the meals. We are scheduled to serve again in July, so please stay tuned as to how you can be involved.





*Be a part of the
lifesaving cause.*



**American
Red Cross**

Community of Giving

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

**June 10, 2020
10AM – 4PM**

Parish Hall
19 W. Pennsylvania Ave
Walkersville, MD

We are Loving our neighbor; won't you?

For an appointment, please visit
redcrossblood.org

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | Download the Blood Donor App

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CALENDAR

June 2	Congregational Life Committee	7pm
June 7	Worship	9:25am
June 8	Finance Committee	7pm
June 9	Council	7pm
June 10	Red Cross Blood Drive	10am-4pm
June 14	Worship	9:25am
June 21	Worship Father's Day	9:25am
June 22	Worship & Arts Committee	7pm
June 23	Executive Council	7pm
June 28	Worship	9:25am