

EPISTLE

Monthly Newsletter of

Saint Paul's Lutheran Church

14 & 19 W. Pennsylvania Avenue,

Walkersville, MD 21793

www.SaintPaulslutheranchurch.org

301-845-4600

September
2020



Consider adding the following to your prayers:

1. Comfort and compassion for those experiencing challenges in their lives.
2. Justice and equality in the world.
3. Be thankful for all of the gifts God has given us.
4. Help us to be good stewards of the earth.
5. Patience and understanding for our church leaders as they guide us in these challenging times.

†

*"In the midst of movement and chaos, keep
stillness inside of you"*
—Deepak Chopra

We will finally be able to say...

"WHAT THE HECK PASTOR BECK!!"

With praise and thanksgiving to God,
the people of Saint Paul's are joyfully invited
to the long anticipated

Ordination and Installation of Vicar Phil Beck
as Pastor of Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

And the Ordination of Vicar Ron Brown of
Chapel Lutheran Church & Grace Rocky Hill Lutheran Church

by William Gohl, Jr., Bishop,
Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA

on Sunday September, 27, 2020, 3:00pm

Nymeo Field at Harry Grove Stadium,

21 Stadium Drive,

Frederick, Maryland 21703

****Social Distancing and mask use will be observed****

Stay tuned for further details and invitation

Hope to see you all there to officially
welcome our new **PASTOR**

Vicar's Valley

"On this rock I will build my church." Matthew 16:18

68 Years Ago.....

*Sept. 3, 1952
Frederick News*

Walkersville Church Interior Refinished

The interior of St. Paul Lutheran church, Walkersville, is now being redecorated. For the past few years the church auditorium was badly in need of repainting, but due to the construction of the \$35,000 parish house in 1949 the congregation was unable to undertake this major improvement. Since the indebtedness on the new building was reduced to \$12,000 by a sizable sum of \$3,850 raised last year, it was deemed wise to proceed with the redecoration of the sanctuary. The church had been redecorated four times since it was dedicated in 1892. It was previously redecorated in 1938, during the pastorate of Rev. F. R. Seibel.

The present work is being done by Robert J. Welsmann, Baltimore, who has been an interior church decorator for 43 years. Mr. Welsmann came from a family of five generations of church decorators, mainly in Europe, engaged in this type of work for 176 years. This is the 366th church which he has decorated.

The church, primary room and the vestibules are painted in a pastel shade of green. The ceiling is decorated in an off white with a small border effect. The doors and windows have a small white border with a quarter inch gold trim. Above each door is a cross with a circle and a fleur-de-lis. A gold and white rope effect outlines the arch of the chancel. The chancel is emphasized by a beautiful Williamsburg green and imitation English oak paneling, which enhances the beauty of the stained glass window above the altar. All of the woodwork and pews will be refinished and completed this week.

The redecoration of the edifice, according to the pastor, Rev. E. Koontz Helwig, is being financed by contributions from members and friends in addition to a bequest of \$1,000 from the late Mrs. Alice F. Nusz. The service of rededication will be held on Sunday at 7:30 p. m., when the President of the Maryland Synod, Rev. J. Frank Fife, D. D., will deliver the sermon.

The last few months have been quite challenging as we have had to seek new ways to proclaim the Good News of Christ in our lives. Never in my wildest dreams would I have imagined the detours we have had to take in the first year serving as vicar at St. Paul's. The journey that we have been on together has not been an easy one and not for the lack of trying, some of you may have felt that your connection to the church has not been as engaging as you would have liked. I will tell you that I don't have all of the answers and I would love to hear from you regarding our on-line worship efforts or things you feel we could do better. I will be meeting with the Worship and Arts Committee and the Christian Education Committee to see what other opportunities we can make available to the congregation. It is anticipated that we will start up our "Gathered at the Table" series on September 10, 2020 at noon and will be looking for "guests" to join us in these discussions.

On August 23, 2020 at 8:30 am we made our first foray into in-person worship by hosting a reading of the lessons, prayers, and sermon outside on the lawn. While this does not have the same meaning to most of you that being inside the building would have, I believe that this is at least a start to the transition from fully on-line to being back together. We had 27 people join us on the lawn and I was overjoyed by seeing people back in person. We are exploring ways in which we can share the Lord's Supper at these early morning services and continue to seek the safest method by which to share the Holy Meal. These early morning services are both drive-in and seated opportunities where we can be distanced safely but still embrace fellowship together.

One of the stumbling blocks we have going forward is the need for additional volunteers to serve as ushers, check in staff, and cleaners for the sanctuary. One of our council members did some research and found that another church had about ten people devoted to ushering, taking temperatures, checking people in, yet sanitizing the space before and after worship was handled by a contractor for a fee. Many of you who completed the congregational survey responded by saying you would volunteer if you knew more, these are some of the things we will need help with to be able to be back within the walls of the church. If you are willing to assist, please contact the church office so that we can begin preparations. I will tell you that many churches struggle with the "new normal", but our goal is to continue to share Christ with everyone as safely and lovingly as possible. The pandemic has caused us to see church in a new light, one that gets us out of the building and into the community. We must be cautious as we move forward so as to not put each other at risk, to love one another as Christ has loved you, and be patient with me as I discern ways in which we can be together. I continue to work with committees and leadership in this effort and ask for your input and suggestions to build St. Paul's stronger than ever. On this rock I will build my church.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

Should you have any questions or concerns, I am glad to speak with you at any time.

Peace

Vicar Phil


Email: pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org

Cell phone: 202-497-0584

Back in the Classroom

Frederick East Classical will be returning to in-person classes this fall with some precautions in place. The safety of students and staff have been of utmost importance as the board considered their return to the classroom. Some of new protocols have been put in place such as reducing the number of students by splitting the week; the younger grades attend on Mondays while older students attend on Wednesdays. FEC as also added two staff members to regularly clean throughout the buildings during the day as well as a thorough cleaning at the end of the week. You'll also see new hand sanitizing stations purchased by FEC and they have graciously offered St. Paul's use of those for our return to worship. And the school will be limiting their use of the worship space for now. Students and teachers will be asked to wear masks and some more vulnerable will have further protective equipment, such as dividers. There are also new protocols to address a child becoming sick during the school day and a special health room has been set up in a classroom to allow isolation of the student until parents can pick up the child. Frederick East Classical has been diligently working to assure the safety of their students, staff and our congregation. If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to bring them directly to Belinda Burriss who is acting as liaison between the congregation and FEC. You can also direct concerns and questions to the office or leadership. We are all navigating through a unique time in history and we will serve each other best when we communicate. We are looking forward to our second year of partnership.

In other news regarding Fredrick East Classical and partnering with St. Paul's, it was brought to the attention of the council in May that the rental of our facility to FEC may be an accessory use of the property and as such needed approval of the Planning Commission of the town. Thank you to Mary Ann Ferguson, Russ Mildenstein, Kim Jernigan and all those who prepared the site plan for submission to the town planner. The issue was addressed at the town's planning meeting on July 28th and passed unanimously with the caveat that there is a restriction to the number of students permitted to 156 and staff to 40. Both limits exceed Frederick East Classical's vision and mission of small, learning environment classrooms, so they will easily be able to adhere to this guideline.



“The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”
– Deuteronomy 31:8

September Birthdays

Sept. 3	Elizabeth McGinnis
Sept. 4	Clarissa Walker
Sept. 5	Mark Stull
Sept. 10	Phil Smith Cindy Stull
Sept. 16	Lonnie Myer
Sept. 17	Justin Thomas Park
Sept. 18	Sabrina Walker
Sept. 21	Sheila Kahler Lillian McCloskey
Sept. 23	Thomas C. Waters
Sept. 25	Rachel Jennings
Sept. 27	Bonnie Easterday
Sept. 28	Dottie Titmas
Sept. 29	Jill Eyler



Church Events

Tuesday, Sept. 1

Congregational Life 7:00pm

Sunday, Sept. 6

Outdoor Worship 8:30am

Virtual Worship 9:30am

Thursday Sept. 10th

Gathered at the Table 12:00 noon

Sunday Sept. 13th

Outdoor Worship 8:30am

Virtual Worship 9:30am

Church Picnic 11:00am-1:00pm

Monday Sept. 14

Finance Committee 7:00pm

Tuesday, Sept. 15th

Council 7:00pm

Sunday Sept. 20th

Outdoor Worship 8:30am

Virtual Worship 9:30am

Tuesday, Sept. 22nd

Executive Council 7:00pm

Sunday Sept. 27th

Outdoor Worship 8:30am

Virtual Worship 9:30am

Monday, Sept. 28th

Worship and Arts 7:00pm

Council's Corner

COVID-19 isn't stopping St. Paul's members in continuing to move forward in providing outreach to our community and beyond. Here are upcoming opportunities to share your gifts, time and talents with others (safely through social distancing).

Tech Support Committee – Need volunteers who know how or want to learn how to use the video camera(s) to live stream the online Sunday service and record Pastor's sermon. Interested, please contact the church office @ 301-845-4600.

Recycle Sneakers – keep sneakers out of landfills and put shoes on the less fortunate. Collect your gently worn, new or used sneakers from friends and colleagues and place them in a bag. Place your bag of sneakers in the green receptacle bins outside the Parish Hall, Monday-Friday from 9 AM – 1 PM. Once we have enough collected, they will be sent off and evaluated (cleaned and distributed, or worn out ones will be recycled). \$1-\$3 will be donated to St. Paul's for each pair of usable sneakers sent to those who need them throughout the world. For additional information, contact the Church Office @ 301-845-4600.

Food Drive, God's Word Our Hands Project and BYOP on St. Paul's side yard

Invite your friends and neighbors to help collect items for the Food Drive to benefit the Walkersville Food Bank: Hamburger or Tuna Helper, canned fruit and fruit cups. Our goal is to collect 125 of each item for a total of 500 items. Let's do this together!

Drop off Dates: Sunday, September 13th from 11 AM to 1 PM and Saturday, September 19th from 9 AM to 11 AM.

Also on **Sunday, September 13th from 11 AM to 1 PM** we will be assembling our service project for God's Words, Our Hands to benefit Blessings in a Backpack. All are welcome to help assemble the 100 packages and then spend time socializing (safe distancing) on the side yard by bringing your own picnic (i.e. bag lunch, beverage, chair/blanket, face mask, etc.). Water and packaged snacks will be provided. All are welcome (members and visitors) to participate or just come out to socialize (safely).

Our site plan was approved by the Town of Walkersville for FEC to continue using our facilities. FEC to use St. Paul's parking lot. Thanks to MaryAnn Ferguson for her knowledge and support in getting the site plan approval

Frederick East Classical (FEC) - Council approved the yearly facilities contract with FEC for the 2020-2021 school year. Due to COVID-19, FEC will be opening at 50% capacity with Grades K-5 attending on Mondays and Grades 6-12 on Wednesdays. FEC is familiar with St. Paul's Reopening Plan and the safety protocols to follow and have purchased their own equipment/supplies to sanitize the spaces the use (i.e. Parish Hall, Education Wing and the Social Hall).

1 Peter 4:10, NIV: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

Thank you for sharing your gifts, your time and talents!

In-Person Worship

Sunday, August 23rd was St. Paul's first step toward returning to in-person worship with it's first outdoor spoken service. Well attended by members and visitors who socially distanced in chairs and in their cars. The service is broadcast on FM station 91.3 in the immediate area of the church. We will continue with 8:30am outdoor worship services as we navigate the way back into our sanctuary. Please join us and if you have questions or concerns please reach out to the office.



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*"Attitude is a choice, Happiness is a choice.
Optimism is choice. Kindness is a choice.
Giving is a choice. Respect is a choice.
Whatever choice you make makes you.
Choose wisely."*

— Roy T. Bennett

Appreciation....



Delaware-Maryland Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

August 5, 2020

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
19 W. Pennsylvania Avenue
Walkersville, MD 21793-8532

To the people of St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

Thank You.

Simply said, I cannot thank you enough! The journey has not been easy over the past five months. Yet, your gracious gifts to our Annual Synod Ministry Fund through our **COVID-19 Response Effort** have made the journey a little bit easier for some of our churches and ministries that have found themselves facing challenging financial decisions.

Your gifts have offered inspiration to our churches and ministries who have engaged in creative innovation as they are discovering what ministry looks like during this challenging time. **Your gifts have aided** churches and ministries that continue to serve thy neighbor in this challenging time and continue to feed the poor and tend to the needy. **Your gifts have assisted** churches who have found themselves in challenging financial times. All these churches and ministries following the example of Christ continue to do God's work through their hands.

As an update, individual gifts, pledges, and matching gifts to date **total approximately \$350,000** towards this effort. We have launched our synodical application for aid. We have already had requests and approved these requests for financial aid. **Your gifts are already in action.**

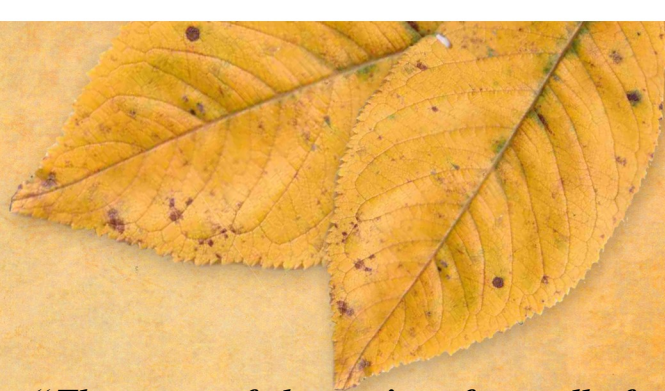
We will continue to update you on the fruits of these efforts. I personally thank you for your support, prayers, and partnership in accompanying our siblings in Christ!

Grace, mercy, and peace,

William (Bill) Gohl, Jr., Bishop
Delaware-Maryland Synod ELCA

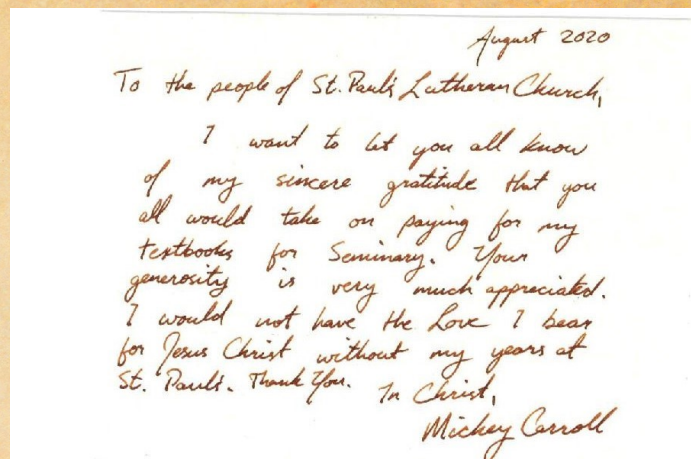
Can't wait for our
big day of celebration!

575 South Charles Street, Suite 202 • Baltimore, Maryland 21201 • 410-230-2860 • www.delmdsynod.org



"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new."

—Socrates



St. Paul's hosts Red Cross Blood Drive on **October 2nd** from 10:30am-4pm. Follow the link on our website to schedule your appointment early before we open it to the public. Our first Blood Drive in June was a great success with 33 units donated, which potentially saved 99 lives. Circulate the love and share the gift of life! If you have any questions please contact the office.

**GIVE BLOOD.
SAVE LIVES.**





*As much as time seems to standstill,
boy do the years fly by.....*

August 2020 marks 20 years that Belinda Burriss has been St. Paul's Youth Director and now Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator!!!! If you talk to or 'see' Belinda make sure to give her a virtual hug and huge thank you for her dedication to our ministry. From Mission Trips to Dr. Seuss Breakfasts, Youth Bible Studies and organizing Soup Kitchens for the community as well as everything in between, she has always gone above and beyond. St. Paul's continues to be blessed through Belinda's commitment to serving our church family, especially during this unprecedented time of pandemic. She strives to find new ways to engage our families and youth, keeping us connected during this time.

With love and supreme appreciation---

**CONGRATULATIONS
BELINDA!!!**