

Epistle

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
DECEMBER 2020 – 19 W. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., WALKERSVILLE, MD
301-845-4600, WWW.SAINTPAULSLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG

Christmas Eve Service

One service, two options. There will be one candlelight worship service at St. Paul's this year. We are offering a traditional service with Holy Communion at 7pm on December 24th.

Option 1: Join in the Livestream of the service at 7pm on our church Facebook page. You can find us @saintpaulslutheranofwalkersville, you do not need to have a Facebook account to watch the service. The video will be available on our page after the live recording for you to view whenever and wherever you may be this Christmas.

Option 2: Attend in person, if you feel comfortable. We would ask that you arrive between 6:30 and 6:55pm and enter through the side door of the church. Please follow the directions of the ushers and wear your facial covering while inside the church. If you have not attended service in person since our reopening in October you will be asked to sign a waiver as you enter. You can complete the waiver and bring it with you for faster sign-in. The waiver can be found on the homepage of the church website.

****Please stay up to date with any changes that may become necessary as the health metrics in the county fluctuate.****

Birthdays

December 2
December 3
December 4

December 5
December 8
December 12

December 16

December 17
December 20
December 22

December 24
December 26

December 28
December 29

Elias Plowman
Matthew Plowman
Candace Foucart
Benjamin Zeller
Jimmy Ake
Katrina Pank
Charles Easterday, Jr.
Beth Ramacciotti
Dylan Barrett
Chris Leins
Deb Horton
Harper Jennings
Holly Fouche
Madelyn Kahler
Russ Mildenstein
Gary Barrett, Jr.
Ella Johnson
Amy Mildenstein
Kathryn King

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope; Romans 15:13

As we enter into the season of Advent, we reflect on the birth of our savior and the good things in our lives because of this gift from God. While the times we are in may preclude our normal gatherings, singing in a full sanctuary, joining friends and family, or just witnessing to joy of the season, we are encouraged in our life at St. Paul's with all the blessings we have received this year. We have been blessed with financial stability, a growing congregation, and a vibrant community eager to share the Good News with our neighbors. I can feel the exuberance in the lives of those we have been able to touch throughout the year and I believe there is great anticipation for the possibilities of a new year.

Reflecting on the past year, we have had to overcome many challenges in sharing the life of Christ with our congregation, families, and community. We are currently experiencing new hurdles in the fight against COVID, are working to keep our community safe, healthy, and connected. We are doing our best to witness and persevere in an unprecedented time. The members of this church have stepped up in many ways

to reflect the true nature of our walk with Christ. There is more to be accomplished and with the love of God we share, nothing is beyond our reach. We are being called to go boldly and enthusiastically in our service to our community which is how we share the gifts God has first given us.

God has given us the gift of Christ in the world, a gift that continues to sustain and comfort us in our times of trial and a gift that brings us joy and peace in a world struggling to find its way. Knowing the peace of Christ, understanding He is always with us and His peace is ever present, guides us in our own journeys seeking a relationship with our God. When that journey is realized in the presence of our God, we will comprehend the faithfulness, dedication, and joy of our expedition and delight in life with our God. Joy to the World! For unto us a child is given, for unto us a Savior has come!

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

Peace, Pastor Phil

Email: pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org

Cell phone: 202-497-0584



Pastor's Peace

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalms 118:24

Filler Fund established at Community Foundation

FOR THE FREDERICK
NEWS-POST

The Melvin E. and Esther E. Filler Fund has been established with the Community Foundation of Frederick County and becomes one of its more than 740 component funds.

Founded by Mr. and Mrs. Filler through their estate provisions, the fund's purpose is to support St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Walkersville Volunteer Rescue Co. For St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, the fund will provide support for debt reduction, heating expenses, and fuel and electricity. For Walkersville Volunteer Rescue Co., the fund will support debt reduction or the purchase of new equipment, such as ambulances and rescue vehicles.

The fund has distributed its first checks to support these organizations,

providing \$50,000 each to Walkersville Volunteer Rescue Co. and St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The Fillers cared deeply about the two organizations that their fund will support. Thanks to their generosity, the Community Foundation will be able to provide vital support to help St. Paul's Church and Walkersville Volunteer Rescue Co. continue to carry out their missions in serving the community.

The Community Foundation works with individuals, families, businesses, and organizations to establish charitable funds that provide grants to area nonprofits serving the community and scholarships to students. Since 1986, more than \$71 million has been provided. For additional information about the Community Foundation, visit www.FrederickCountyGives.org.



Courtesy photo

Melvin and Esther Filler

Glade Valley Community Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 655
Walkersville, MD 21793
Phone: 301-845-0213 FAX: 301-845-9811



November 17, 2020

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
19 W. Pennsylvania Ave.
Walkersville, MD 21793

Thank you for your \$100.00 donation to Glade Valley Community Services. Your donation will be deposited in our general fund and be allocated as needed to support existing programs and/or new programs, as determined by the Glade Valley Community Services Board of Directors, to meet the ongoing needs of families and individuals living in our area.

We look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,

Vicki Rob

Glade Valley Community Services, Inc.
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Thank you, St. Paul's, for your continued support of our programs but also for your steadfast and continuing commitment to our mission and how we try to "raise up" others in our community on "eagles' wings." Your gift will continue to help us bridge the gap between providing for families' needs and the heightened financial burden of the pandemic.

Please keep this acknowledgement for your tax records. GVCS is a 501(c)(3) organization. Pursuant to section 170(f)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code we acknowledge that the donor did not receive any goods or services in whole or partial consideration for the above contribution.

Thank you - again! Vicki Rob
By the way, I always said when I see St. Paul's Lutheran "because that is my second home" church in Spring Grove, Pa - I am north, I was there for years!

GVCS
Programs

Glade Valley
Food Bank

Emergency Relief
Fund

Community Thrift
Shop

Back-To-School
Project

Holiday Toy Shop

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

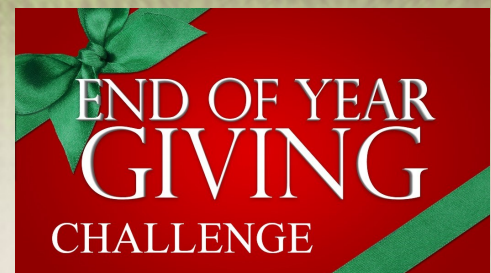


Introducing the Media and Technology Ministry

Many things have come from 2020, one of those is the Media and Technology Ministry group. This group will be like many of the other committees as they report to the council and meet regularly to address the social media and technology aspects of St. Paul's. The Social Media portion will include the website, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram. The Technology part will encompass the computers, the Mevo (camera) and iPad, TVs, projector, soundboard, WiFi/Internet, GSuite and the Carillon. There are currently seven members doing various jobs within these fields, but we are looking for more to join the team. If you have interest in helping manage some of the social media or work with the hardware please contact the office. It's not as overwhelming as you might think and we will work with anyone who is willing to give it a try. And look for a detailed report in the congregation's annual report with all that has been accomplished over the last year.

Announcement to the congregation regarding our virtual service:

St. Paul's intends to continue offering online worship services to share the Gospel through Facebook and Youtube. With the inclusion of in-person attendance during the service, we need to inform you that your presence may be captured in the recording and broadcast through St. Paul's social media platforms. Your comfort and privacy are of utmost importance, if you prefer not to have your image broadcast please contact the office by phone or email. The office will keep a list of those wishing to NOT appear in the recording and convey that information to the Media and Technology Ministry.




We are again blessed that an anonymous donor has offered a matching challenge of \$1,500 to assist where most needed by the end of the year. If members of the congregation can contribute \$1,500 over and above their normal giving, the anonymous member will match the contribution.

If you are writing a check, please include "Challenge" on the memo line. If you prefer to give on-line, please use the "GIVE NOW" button and choose the Fundraiser Payment selection in the Fund dropdown and add "Challenge" in the "Note" section. The deadline for the challenge is Sunday, December 27 th .



*"Taste and see that the LORD is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him"*

Psalm 34:8



Council's Corner

It's so hard to believe that we are beginning the Advent season already...and yet it also seems that we have been waiting FOREVER for this time of the year as well! The Council Leadership continues to be grateful and humbled by the generosity of giving from the congregation. During this year of uncertainty our church family has been greatly blessed by both the increase of new members and the continued financial giving. The leadership of your church values this and is striving to continue its commitment to lead the business of the church in a fiscally responsible way. We have some wonderful opportunities to 'upgrade' different areas of the properties, which is in part because of the consistent weekly gifts as well as some memorial blessings.

These potential upgrades will need to have a congregational discussion and vote—how appropriate that January is when our annual meeting is held and will be the time for these discussions! To allow for the meeting to be held during these times of Covid-19, there is direction from our Synod on how to allow for these meetings/voting to occur.

(See additional information included in the Epistle from the Office of the Bishop.) Please, read this information as it provides an innovative and gracious means for us to join together while also safely keeping us out of potential harm in these uncertain times. Similarly, we all know that the winter months come with their own challenges in weather, thus sometimes making our meetings subject to the goodness of God's Creation.

This continuing resolution will be added to our constitution, as will other revisions that need to be made in updating our document to meet the needs of the congregation. This meeting method allows us to gather in person, virtually, or both, providing St. Paul's the ability to come together to do the business of the church whereby we might not have been able. Obviously, this will all be brought before you for discussion and approval once it has been completed.

Also, as of this writing, much information regarding guidelines and Covid-19 positivity rates have been in the news. Know that the leadership is keeping a close watch on all the news and any changes that occur. Our goal has always been to keep the health of the whole in mind first. With that in said, we are striving to keep our Sunday Services open to all who wish to worship in person for as long as we are able and allowed to. We have some very dedicated stewards who clean after each service, to whom we are grateful. Our online Facebook live service continues to reach many in our community and beyond and this option will continue to be available regardless of in person worship.

St. Paul's has been on quite a journey this past year, given the turmoil of the world, our small portion has had a lot to be grateful and thankful for! We look forward to the joys we will share in our future together.



"Let us be grateful to the people who make, us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."

Announcements



Hats & Mitten Tree

Give the gift of warmth!! Now through December 15th you can hang hats and mittens on the tree in the front of the overflow area or drop them off at the Parish Office Monday through Friday between 9am and 1pm. All donations will go to Glade Valley for families in need.

Prayer List Updates

As we look forward to a new year, the office is updating our records, including the prayer list. If you or someone you know is on the prayer list currently, and you would like them to continue being on the prayer list, please call or email the office at officeadministrator@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org to confirm this! Thank you.

Advent Devotionals

Get the Luther Seminary

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” devotional.

You can access it by clicking the link below:

(<https://www.luthersem.edu/advent>) and download the regular or large print to print at home.

Sign up to receive the devotion through your email each day in advent by clicking on the “Subscribe to God Pause” box in the upper right hand side of the page.

The devotional will begin on Sunday November 29th, so be sure to get your copy by then!

Upcoming Events

December 1, 2020—	Congregational Life 7pm
December 8, 2020—	Council 7pm
December 14, 2020—	Finance Committee 7pm
December 22, 2020—	Executive Council
December 24, 2020—	Christmas Eve, Offices Closed
December 25, 2020—	Christmas Day, Offices Closed
December 28, 2020—	Worship & Arts 7:00pm

Luke 2: 9-11

“An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

