

# The Epistle

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
19 WEST PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE  
WALKERSVILLE, MD 21793  
JANUARY 2021

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**Annual Congregational Meeting January 31st immediately following worship**

## *2020 in Review*

2020 could be remembered as year of tragedy and disaster with the worst pandemic the world has seen in more than a century. But in the midst of all of this, Saint Paul's stood with grace, sacrifice, hope, change and courage. Faced with such uncertainty and fear we adapted and rose up to be our very best. There are many positive things that happened in 2020 which kept the St. Paul's family centered and focused on our faith. Not many of us will remember 2020 with affection, but we will absolutely remember it as a year where gratitude was imperative and our faith endured,



Saint Paul's  
Ordination of  
Pastor Phil Beck  
Nyneo Field, Frederick, MD  
9/27/2020



# Pastor's Peace

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11*

As we begin a new year together I am excited about the plans this church has to move forward in our discipleship of Christ. Writing this the week of Christmas, I can share with you that we have been blessed in many ways this past year including new members, gifts from saints departed and saints among us, and especially with financial stability which will allow for many overdue projects to be realized. We consistently have members finding their Way with Christ and sharing that gift with those around them. The new year will also bring upon us our Annual Congregational Meeting which will be a completely new experience allowing us to gather in person or virtually as we have been doing in worship.

The Annual Congregational Meeting is where we will do the business of the church and where you will have a voice in how your church carries out its discipleship in our community. It is important to know that you can voice your concerns, ask questions, and seek clarification for any topic discussed in this meeting. There will be several opportunities for you to participate in the new business of the church, as well as any old business you feel needs to be addressed. The meeting will follow Roberts Rules of Order, and therefore your questions or comments may be directed to the proper time of the meeting. Please know that this is your opportunity to address any issues you feel need to be

resolved. Your voice will be heard and every opinion will be taken into account during any decision making that occurs. Your congregational leaders will present to you a report of activities that have occurred throughout 2020, and though we were not able to have our Strawberry Festival, German Dinner, or Christkindl Mart, your church was extremely busy.

We will also be voting to fill vacancies on our congregational council. Trisha Valcarcel, Russ Mildenstein, and Tom Waters have all agreed to seek another term, while Marcia Gupta has agreed to run for the position Mary Ann Ferguson has faithfully held for the past term. It is important for you to be engaged in this process as this is who will represent your interests on the council.


Susan and I send out our best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year and are thankful for the warm presence we have experienced since our arrival. We look forward to the time where more of us can gather safely and especially to how our church will forge ahead sharing the love of God with all who will hear.

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

Peace,  
Phil

Email: [pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org)

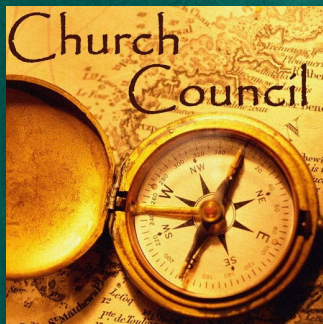
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*"Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world."*

— C.S. Lewis





## Reports for the Annual Congregational Meeting

Hard copies of the 2021 Proposed Expense budget report will be available at in-person worship two weeks before the annual congregation meeting.

Hard Copies of the Committee Reports and Treasurer's Report will be available at the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, Jan 31st.

If you are attending the meeting virtually and would like copies of these reports, please contact the office.

We have four candidates for Council nominations for 2021!

Russ Mildenstein, Tom Waters and Trisha Valcarcel will be re-running and our 4th nominee will be Marcia Gupta!

Voting will take place at the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 31, 2020. The meeting will be in person and via Zoom. Please look for details in upcoming weekly emails!!

*"It's not about how much we give  
but how much love we put into giving."*

*—Mother Theresa*



## Stockings!!

Another year of stuffed stockings in the books. A small and safe crew stuffed 121 stockings for the children in our community. This year's event was unique like many events in 2020, overcoming obstacles such as collection of items when the doors are closed, sourcing specific items that were low in quantity, and the rising cost of fabric for the stockings themselves. Thank you does not seem like enough for the Kahler family for all their hard work and dedication to making this event possible—but THANK YOU!! And to Phyllis Dayhoff for sewing the stockings again this year—THANK YOU!! And thank you to the community of St Paul's for continuing to support the stocking project—to date we have provided 2,705 stuffed stockings to the area's children since 2005!!



*“You are remembered with love this Blessed Season from your St. Paul’s Family, Enjoy!”*

2020 has been a year of uncertainty, social distancing, people battling fears about the pandemic while juggling home and work, all in close proximity. Taking the time to remember those who haven't been able to visit with friends or loved ones is significant in encouraging survival and good health during these trying times. A big thank you to Deb Loso, Marie Purswell, the Congregational Life Committee and all those who so generously offered their time and help in donating or purchasing items, assembling and delivering the comfort bags to members of our church family who really needed some Christmas cheer. We all need acts of kindness, givers and receivers, to remind us that we are all in this together. 2020 Comfort Bags was a wonderful way to enjoy the Season of giving.



*“May God’s grace be on all who love our Lord Jesus Christ.”*  
—Ephesians 6:24

## January Birthdays

January 2nd	Daniel Carroll
January 4th	Delanie Burriss Harold Lutz
January 5th	Dolores Denn
January 8th	Dorothy Fogle
January 13th	Katie Walker
January 16th	Drew McLane
January 17th	Bennett Chesnik Kayla Plowman
January 20th	Ed Chaney Helen Lynch
January 21st	Ella Mae Ramacciotti
January 25th	Donna Warner
January 26th	Thelma Powell
January 29th	Audrey McDougall Rob Port



*“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.”*

—Robert Louis Stevenson