

Epistle

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
19 WEST PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, WALKERSVILLE, MD 21793
WWW.SAINTPAULSLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG, 301-845-4600

March 2021

COUNCIL'S CORNER

For those that joined us at the Annual Meeting, you know that we voted to adopt a new church logo (you've seen it on our website/facebook/emails) and with that a new sign for the front of our property! We are excited to show off our updated look to the community. If you have driven by, you have seen our temporary banner in place--Our permanent sign will be ready soon and Russ will be installing it as soon as he receives it! The temporary banner will then be available to be used for other events that St. Paul's hosts or participates in. Many thanks to those instrumental in the logo and sign designs, with extra thanks to Russ for his continued commitment to all things property!!



Welcome New Council Members 2021

President — Trish Valcarcel

Vice President — Sheila Kahler

Secretary — Patty Rimel

Linda Yopp

Deb Loso

Gary Wachter

Troy Keeney

Marcia Gupta

Betsy Galliher

Russ Mildenstein

Keith Horton

Tom Waters

Pastor's Peace

"And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast." 1 Peter 5:10

Around March 8, 2020 church leadership were given the information that we would not be able to worship in person because of rising issues with the COVID 19 pandemic. None of us ever envisioned the extent to which that announcement would impact our community, nor did we anticipate being out of our building until September. However, the good news is that St. Paul's never closed and with a core group of dedicated individuals we held worship the very next Sunday. The foray into virtual worship has been full of joy, promise, some failure, but most of all we have been able to reconnect with members that for whatever reason, have not been inside the church building. We are continuing to explore different ways in which we can be church outside of the four walls of the building. Each week we enjoy the company of those who come in person and those who participate on-line from all over the country.

Our committees are hard at work planning for the future of our church in seeking new ways to serve our community in hopes that some of our traditional events can be held. We might not be able to experience them in the same manner at this time, yet we are working to discern our best paths forward. Currently, most of our meetings are held virtually, so if you feel the Spirit calling you to participate in your church, we invite your thoughts and ideas for growing our ministries.



*So now faith, hope, and love abide,
these three; but the greatest of
these is love.*

- 1 Corinthians 13:13

Great things are happening here as we are moving forward with our new logo that has been adopted onto our new church sign which we hope to be installed in the near future. A temporary sign has been put up to give folks an idea as to how the new one will look. We are moving forward on the new organ project where the Worship and Arts Committee will have an update and timeline for installation in the very near future. A new lamp has been installed in the church library which has improved the lighting in that area. A proposal will be coming to the congregation in the near future to replace the fans in the nave with similar lighting after consultation with a light and sound professional.

The Congregational Life committee just completed our Souper Bowl challenge with over 430 cans of soup collected for the Glade Valley Food Bank. Additionally, over 50 quilts and lap robes were lovingly created to share with those in need.

I am sure that many of you have ideas, dreams, and suggestions about how our church can continue to serve. I encourage you to get involved in some way to make those dreams a reality. We are not a church community unless we are working together to share our gifts with those around us for the glory of God. We are God's hands, feet, and voice in the world when we welcome the Spirit into our hearts to share the joy of God with others. We continue to weather the trials put in front of us and the true nature of our church shines forth where we move forward to embody our new motto of Cultivating and Nourishing Mind, Body, and Spirit.

As we continue our journey to the Cross, know there is joy in the world which we are being called to proclaim loudly.

Peace, Pastor Phil

Email: pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org

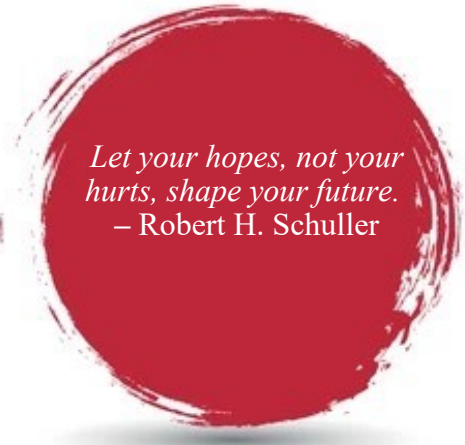
Cell phone: 202-497-0584

SPRING FEVER ANYONE?

What's popping up along with those daffodils?
Praise Gardens!

Any new ministry begins with prayer, planning and then action. We've have been praying about how St.Paul's can help families and the greater community connect with God, especially after this past year. Revealed through the guidance of the Spirit and scripture, along with past experiences and messages of encouragement, we embark on something new here at St. Paul's, Praise Gardens. Our Praise Gardens will begin with several raised beds using the square foot technique in the front corner of the parsonage lawn. These 3x3 gardens will provide a hands-on learning space that will nurture the connection of Bible stories, verses, and concepts to the growth of a garden, bringing them to life. Learning is a continual process; it does not stop once we reach adulthood. Experienced gardeners and theologians alike will tell you they too continue to learn.

The Spirit moves to help us grow continually. Proverbs 16:3 says, "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed." Our main goal is to share the message of the gospel boldly in our community bringing praise and glory to our Creator with the resources He has provided. A secondary goal would be the interaction among our congregation members in a safe environment to foster deeper relationships and then to grow the relationships with our community. The opportunities to become involved with Praise Gardens are boundless and can meet you at any level you would be willing to participate. Anticipating a break in the weather we will be meeting to build the raised beds and prepping them for plants as well as starting some seeds indoors and out on March 21st beginning at 11am. Come as you are able, to begin this exciting new ministry. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please contact Belinda at youthandfamily@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org. Council has approved this new ministry and it is supported by the Christian Education Committee as well as Congregational Life.



*Let your hopes, not your
hurts, shape your future.*
— Robert H. Schuller

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 3	Jaiden Fellows Jenna Fellows
March 6	Rodney Kahler
March 7	Jake Lutz
March 10	Joe Valcarcel
March 11	Robert Schell
March 15	Scott B. Sube
March 16	Michaela Zeller
March 18	Abigail Johnson Joey Lutz
March 19	Lori King
March 25	Daniel Mildenstein
March 26	Ellen Gupta
March 28	Lauren Barrett



Easter Lilies

Help us decorate for Easter by purchasing an Easter Lily. They are available for \$10.00 each.

Remember, you don't have to throw these beautiful lilies away, they can be planted in your garden for next year's blooming!

Sign up online [here](#) or call the Parish Office to purchase with a check or cash.

March 27th is the final date to order!



To my St. Paul's family

Thank you all for thinking of me the past few weeks. Your cards, calls, food, visits and especially your prayers have meant so much ...I never feel alone!!

With love and thanks
Betsy

GIVE TO ECLA WORLD HUNGER

Commit to a giving goal for the Lenten season in support of ELCA World Hunger, set aside a portion each day, or make your gifts throughout the season as part of your regular Lenten practice. Click [here](#) to get started.



*But I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble.
—Psalm 59:16*