

# Saint Paul's Epistle

Monthly Newsletter of Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
*April 2021*  
19 WEST PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE  
WALKERSVILLE, MD 21793  
[WWW.SAINTPAULSLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.SAINTPAULSLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG) , 301-845-4600

## April Birthdays

April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Ronald Chesnik Hope Donati
April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Dianne Port
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Dale Long
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Hazel Kopp
April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Francis Bruning
April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Charlotte Jones
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Jon Brundage
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	Bethany McLane Vaughn Zimmerman
April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Patty Rimel

*"Now faith is the assurance of  
things hoped for, the conviction  
of things not seen."  
Hebrew 11:1*

## Exploring Holy Week

Even though the COVID 19 Pandemic has changed our lives in many ways, we are excitedly looking forward to Holy Week and celebrating our Lord's Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Holy Week takes us on a journey through the events of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, his last supper with his disciples, his betrayal and arrest, his trial and crucifixion, his death and burial, and his glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday.

### *Passion/Palm Sunday*

Recollecting the day when Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey as the Son of David, we begin Holy Week worship waving palm branches at every "Hosanna" and "Amen" we hear! Join us in person at 9:25am or virtually on Facebook live.

### *Maundy Thursday*

"Maundy" means "command" and refers to the new command Jesus gave the disciples after "washing their feet: "Love one another, as I have loved you." The readings also recall the institution of the Lord's Supper "on the night he was betrayed." Maundy Thursday concludes with the "stripping of the altar," a solemn reminder of the way in which the disciples abandoned Jesus to face the gathering forces of evil alone. Join us in person at 7:00pm or virtually on Facebook live as we recall the first Lord's Supper.

### *Good Friday*

Please join us in person at 7:00pm or virtually on Facebook live as we observe the day when our Lord gave his life to save us from our sins. It is very humbling as we contemplate the cost that Jesus paid for our redemption. On this day the body of our Lord is broken on the cross—not at the table.

### *Easter*

The resurrection of our Lord. He is risen!! Alleluia! Join us at 8:00am for outdoor Worship or at 9:25am for indoor worship which can also be joined via Facebook live! Celebrate with us as we blast forward with joyful praise. By his death, Jesus has destroyed death and by his rising has brought life and immortality to light. This year we hear the gospel from Matthew, we share the meal of our Lord, and we sing Alleluia over and over again!



*"Spring is far more than just a  
changing of seasons;  
it's a rebirth of the spirit."  
— Toni Sorenson*



## Matthew 28:5

But the angel answered and  
said to the women,  
“Do not be afraid, for I  
know that you seek Jesus  
who was crucified.

## Council's Corner

### Happy Spring!!

Just a few quick summary updates to make everyone aware of:

In an effort to have Council meetings run more effectively, we have moved the monthly council meetings to the 3rd Tuesday of the month. This will allow for all the ministry committee's to submit their monthly reports the Friday before, allowing the Council members to review minutes ahead of time. It also gives Amy, as our treasurer, ample time to close out the previous month in a less rushed time frame. This change does affect the meeting times of Executive Council (now 1st Tuesday) and Congregational Life (now 2nd Tuesday). All of these updates/changes occurred from discussions we had at our annual Council retreat at Mar-Lu-Ridge, where we agreed that we needed to encourage and foster an environment of joyful devotion, successful discussions, and meaningful outcomes.

On the Horizon--Be looking for different Council members to highlight information about upcoming events every month in the Council Corner!!

For example: More details about the Organ and the timeline for it's installation! (Pictures from the contract signing are attached!)

Strawberry Festival information! (yes, we will be holding an abbreviated event--be looking for details!)

Safety upgrades are being discerned within the approved financial package.

Sound and lighting options are being reviewed to enhance the in person worship and online presence.

Obviously there is a LOT more, but these are just a few 'teasers'!

God continues to bless St. Paul's in so many ways and we, your leadership, want to communicate as often as we can about all of these gifts.

In His Service,  
Your Congregational Council





***"So in Christ we, though many, form  
one body, and each member belongs to  
all the others."  
— Romans 12:5***

## Pastor's Peace

“ Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ so that—whether I come and see you or whether I remain absent—I should hear that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind, by contending side by side for the faith of the gospel.” 1 Peter 5:10

A year ago we had just been thrown for a loop by having to suspend in-person worship because of restrictions imposed in an executive order by the governor. The challenges presented to us were something we had never encountered before, and certainly none that had ever been broached in seminary. The members of St. Paul's rose to the occasion and were able to adapt to the times by innovating new technology into our worship. We really never slowed down, we sought ways to remain community even though we were separated from the church building. Worshipping from home and not being in communion with our fellow congregants certainly was an odd way to celebrate Easter, but it gave new meaning to the empty tomb. Not everyone was present on that First Easter and yet, the Good News grew and grew with a fervor no one could have imagined. Similarly, we are doing the same at St. Paul's.

We are witnessing in the world and doing great things for our community. The new organ has been ordered, and much to our delight, we have been given several upgrades without additional cost to the congregation. A delivery of quilts/lap robes was made to Frederick Health Hospital as that was a need identified by the Volunteer Staff during one of my visits. Our Wednesday Lenten series, the Places of the Passion, has been going well with both online and in-person attendance. A few months ago we began sending out printed copies of the bulletin and sermons to those of you who are unable to connect with us via technology. We hope that this outreach has been meaningful to you as I look forward to the time when we can again meet in person. Should you have any feedback concerning worship or have ideas for future projects, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

We are thankful for the sustained gifts that you have been diligently providing to our church community. Many of you have stepped up to be ushers, lectors, acolytes, cantors, and soloists making worship more meaningful with a variety of members participating. We are looking at having a modified Strawberry Festival this year, focusing on evangelism in our community. Additionally, you are consistently supporting our church with your financial gifts which have allowed us to take on a range of projects to improve our worship space and outreach to the community. We were fortunate to end last year with a surplus for a variety of reasons, yet this year we are a bit behind. I would ask that you continue to prayerfully consider how you can support our church in order that we can accomplish other goals for our future. As you read this we are beginning Holy Week with a lot of things going on. We will worship in-person and virtually Holy Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday at 7 p.m. Easter Sunday we will have an outdoor service at 8 a.m., bring a chair, your car, or feel free to stand as we share communion on the lawn. Worship in the sanctuary will begin streaming at 9:25 a.m.; in-person worship begins at 9:30 a.m. I look forward to sharing this joyous celebration with you and your families.

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

Peace

Pastor Phil

Email: [pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org)  
Cell phone: 202-497-0584



## Easter Egg Hunt is BACK!!

The youth are excitedly planning the 2021 Easter Egg Hunt for Saturday, April 3rd from 3pm to 5pm. They have created a rotation of stations, including the HUNT, that will allow everyone to have fun and stay safe. Bring a basket to collect your goodies as family groups visit each activity. The full event will be held outdoors, so check in on Facebook and our website if there are changes due to weather. Walk up to check in at the Fulton Avenue driveway to get started with the fun, all are welcome, and we hope to see you all there!



The youth need your help to pull off the best Easter Egg Hunt. They have dreamed up 10 stations for kids to rotate through but need some assistance in running each post the day of the Hunt. There are some pre-Hunt tasks that need some help with as well. If you are able to assist the day of the Hunt or with set up prior to the event, please contact Belinda at [youthandfamily@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](mailto:youthandfamily@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org) or 240-315-5030.

## Praise Garden Update

Some spring weather blessed the group as they began putting together the Praise Garden in the front lot of the parsonage lawn. Four 3ft by 3ft boxes were built for square foot gardening and each bed was filled with a raised bed mix so it will be ready for planting in May. Be sure to stop by and check out the progress. Regular garden gatherings will be starting soon, check out the schedule in the weekly emails and on Facebook and join in as you are able.



*"A kind word is like a spring day."*  
Russian Proverb



## Save the date to help with the Soup Kitchen Sunday April 25th

*"The place to improve the world is first in  
one's own heart and head and hands." -  
Robert M. Pirsig*

We will be preparing the food in our commercial kitchen in the afternoon then delivering to FCAA Soup Kitchen and serving the meals in the dining room or offering carry out. If you can help, please contact Belinda and be on the look out for food donation sign ups in the weekly email after Easter.



### Strawberry Festival

## Strawberry Festival

**May 15, 2021** is around the corner....Walkersville yard sales and **St. Paul's Annual Strawberry Festival.**

The Congregational Life Committee is mulling over ideas on how to scale back the annual Strawberry Festival for safety of all with social distancing and face masks. We are considering the following for 2021: Welcome Tent, Strawberry Shortcake Tent, Bake Table, Food Tent (free hot dogs, chips and water per person) and the Prayer Tent.

We need your help by volunteering your time/talents to make this event successful in 2021. If you can help out that day (8 to 4) or work a few hours during the festival, would be greatly appreciated. *More hands make less work.*

The festival will be held on **Saturday, May 15th from 10 am to 2 pm.**

- **Set-up starts @ 8 am**  
(tables, chairs, tents, garbage cans, recycle bins)
- **Take Down/Clean Up starts @ 2 pm**

Additional information will be coming soon on how you can volunteer.

**Questions:** Please reach out to Deb Loso or Sheila Kahler

*Congregational Life Committee: Pastor Phil, Deb Loso, Marcia Gupta, Sheila Kahler, Marie Purswell, Kate Stottlemeyer, and Linda Yopp.*





## Organ Contract Signing



## Council Retreat Marlu Ridge, 3/06/21

