



# Epistle

Monthly Newsletter of Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church | June 2021

19 West Pennsylvania Avenue, Walkersville, MD 21793 | [WWW.SAINTPAULSLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.SAINTPAULSLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG) , 301-845-4600

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2021!

We will recognize the graduating high school seniors at Youth Sunday on July 4th! Congratulations to seniors Daniel Mildenstein, Theresa Harrod and Ryan Fulmer. It has been a crazy senior year, but you did it!! May the Lord continue to bless you on your journey. All are invited to help the seniors celebrate at an outdoor summer chat after service on July 4<sup>th</sup>!

We would like to recognize the graduating college students in July. If you have a student that has graduated, please send their info to the church office for publication next month. Please include their name, college and major. We'd love to include the Class of 2020 and 2021.

## OUTDOOR WORSHIP REMINDER

St. Paul's outdoor worship service is held on the fourth Sunday of the month. This is a spoken service with Holy Communion on the Fulton Ave. lawn that begins at 8am. All are welcome to participate, bring your own chair and worship outside among the Lord's creation.

## June Birthdays

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| June 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | - Alexis Bush                                       |
| June 7 <sup>th</sup>  | - Billie Jo Kahler                                  |
| June 11 <sup>th</sup> | - Annabelle Bush<br>Dennis Cavell                   |
| June 13 <sup>th</sup> | - Sophie Myer                                       |
| June 16 <sup>th</sup> | - Charles Covell                                    |
| June 17 <sup>th</sup> | - John Fradiska Jr.                                 |
| June 18 <sup>th</sup> | - Donna Seaton                                      |
| June 22 <sup>nd</sup> | - Shirley Eyler<br>Ray Pettingall<br>Edward Sell II |
| June 23 <sup>rd</sup> | - Susan Hayes<br>- Mary Ann King                    |
| June 24 <sup>th</sup> | - Belinda Burriss                                   |

*"To Plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow"*

*- Audrey Hepburn*

# Comfort Bag Update

The Christian Education committee set a goal to collect items to include in 50 comfort bags for the local foster child intake center. Unfortunately, we did not reach that goal, but will continue to pursue this project throughout the summer. We have been specifically asked to include some school supplies in the bags which will now be assembled at the end of July. Please look for updates on our website and our Facebook page for the ongoing needs for this project. Those donations already collected will still be used in the bags and a huge thanks to those who donated! If you have any questions, please reach out to Belinda or Billie Jo.

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

— Mother Theresa

## Gathered at the Table

May 20th marked the end of Season Two, Episode 31. Thursday Facebook round table discussions have been an enlightening opportunity to explore the ELCA Social Statements and the foundations of our faith together. Some topics covered this past season were Caring for Creation, Church in Society, Economic Life, as well as Health and Health care. We plan to continue this exploration with your help. What topics would you like to see addressed? What faith questions do you have? You can submit them to the office or directly to Pastor Phil. Belinda, Russ and Pastor are looking forward to continuing this venue. Hope you are enjoying these discussions and we look forward to virtually seeing everyone on Thursdays at Noon on Facebook. Season Three will begin on Thursday September 16, 2021. Get your coffee or beverage of choice, your questions, thoughts and/or concerns together and gather with us at the Table!

## Lap Quilt Ministry

Over the last few months, you may have read in the bulletin requests from the Congregational Life Committee for sewing supplies to make lap quilts and wondered what, pray tell, is a lap quilt. Wonder no longer. A lap quilt is a simple patchwork quilt intended to keep someone's lap warm in a drafty room. Each quilt is about 38 by 31 inches, perfect for a wheelchair.

This is a service project, not a fundraiser. We do not sell these quilts, even to raise money with which to sew them. We use new donated materials and, after a blessing, donate the finished product to those in need. So far, we have made 100 quilts to donate to Frederick hospital and 50 for the Youth's "Go Bag" project. Fifty were blessed in February and 100 more will be blessed on June 6.

To continue this Ministry, we need a steady stream of donations including:

Lightweight woven cotton fabric (the texture and weight of a bedsheet). Print or solid color, any size. Remnants larger than 6 x 7 inches are fine. Fabric can be inexpensive, but must be new or unused. Walmart sells cotton fabric for less than \$5/yd. and secondhand stores (such as Goodwill—check the linen aisle) sell odd pieces of new yardage for very little. (No children's fabric at this time, please.)

Low-loft quilt batting. (Lg. size at Walmart \$10.)

New bedsheets (for backing). Any size or color, fitted or flat.

Thread. White, off-white, black or *any color at all!* Clean out the oldies in your sewing box; it—and we—will thank you.

Monetary donations. Put a check in the offering plate or get it to the Church Office, or donate online (use the "undesignated" option). In all cases, put *"quilts"* on the memo line for proper routing.

Volunteers to assemble quilts at home. Materials and/or instructions available upon request.

To donate items or volunteer, contact Kate Stottlemeyer or call the Church Office to make arrangements. Thank you.

The Congregational Life Committee



# Stephen Ministry

**“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ, To Him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen”**

*1 Peter 4:10-11*

**St. Pauls has been blessed with people that have served God and others through Stephen Ministry. God calls people from all walks of life and experience into service to others by this ministry.**

**Stephen Ministry is an enjoyable, transformative experience. All who participate are well trained and supported. If you have a heart for caring - bringing Christ's healing love to those facing life's many challenges, please consider serving as a Stephen Minister.**

**Brookhill Methodist Church is inviting Saint Pauls to take part in their Stephen Ministry training scheduled to begin July 18th. Anyone interested in this ministry please call 301-845-4600 or email [officeadministrator@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](mailto:officeadministrator@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org)**



# STEPHEN MINISTRY

## Council's Corner

We want to take this time to say **THANK YOU TO ALL** for the success of St. Paul's annual Strawberry Festival. This is an annual congregational event that provides an opportunity for us to be out in the community in sharing the love of God.

First, we want to thank our heavenly father for the gathering of people and the beautiful weather.

Thank you to the community for supporting this annual event. It was wonderful to see people out and about with smiles on their faces, enjoying the weather, food and fellowship.

Thank you to Frederick East Classical for your help in turning the Social Hall from your classroom space to prepping for the Strawberry Festival. Thanks to families and individuals who volunteered their time to help with set-up and take down and volunteering at the Strawberry Festival.

Lastly, thank you to the chairpersons, to the many volunteers, the Congregational Life Ministry and St Paul's congregation. With the covid restrictions, the main task was discerning the best ways to hold an annual outdoor event while considering the safety of all (mask/no mask, social distancing, etc.) This event provided the means for St. Paul's members thinking outside the box in providing a wonderful and safe outdoor experience since many have been quarantining since March 2020.

**Strawberry Shortcake Tent** (Betsy Galliher) - Thank you to all the bakers for the "shortcakes". Thank you to Candy Foucart and Susan Hayes for pre-assembling the strawberries into individual serving cups. Instead of scooping ice cream, ice cream cups were purchased. All the fixings for a strawberry shortcake fit into a take-away container.

**Food Tent** (Marie Purswell) - We offered a free hot dog, bag of chips and bottled water per person as a thank you to the community.

**Welcome Tent** (Marsha Gupta + Shannon Gupta) - Wonderful display for the community to learn about St. Paul's and its many outreach projects and upcoming events. Gave away many Thrivent t-shirts.

**Bake Table** (Shirley Merando + Nancy Cochran) - Thank you to all our wonderful bakers. Folks enjoyed the array of items for purchase from whole cakes, breads and to the many offerings of cookies and bars. The biggest hit was the organic dog treats for our four-legged-friends that Ed Chaney made.

**Plant Sale** - Thank you for the donations of plants.

**Set-Up /Take-Down** - Thanks to all for helping with the pop-up canopies, hauling out tables and chairs for the tents, coolers, food (as needed), taking care of the garbage cans, etc.

The Strawberry Festival wasn't about "raising monies for St. Paul's". Focus was on giving back to our community we serve especially during these unusual and difficult times. This event was an opportunity to show our community we are still a viable congregation in good times and difficult times and that St. Paul's is here to continue supporting our community.

# PASTOR'S PEACE

“Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” Matthew 19:21

The definition of benevolence as described by Merriam Webster is a disposition to do good, an act of kindness, or a generous gift. Since my arrival here, I have seen many examples of benevolence by our members, our Council, and our staff. Each month the Congregational Life Committee makes a recommendation to the Council for the disbursement of \$100 to be given to a local entity doing God's work in our community. Over the last year the Council has approved benevolence to Walkersville Safe and Sane, Frederick County Humane Society, The Religious Coalition (Linton Cold Weather Shelter, and SHIP (Student Homelessness Initiative Partnerships) just to name a few. Additionally, the Council designates \$100 per month to Glade Valley Community Services to support their various activities in our community. We also house the Glade Valley Thrift Shop at no cost to them. Just recently, the Council approved a \$2000 gift of benevolence to support the Hayward Road Family Shelter as part of a challenge that was issued to the DE/MD Synod Frederick Conference of Lutheran Pastors.

Over the last few years, St. Paul's has been blessed with the benevolence of many of its parishioners. Significant gifts have been made to sustain our church far beyond the life of those who have made those gifts. Esther Filler and Margaret Powers are two of those benefactors who have gifted significant memorials to St. Paul's for the organ project, heating and cooling bills, and for the upkeep and maintenance of our buildings. It is through their benevolence that we have been able to undertake many projects within the last year and we are ever grateful for these gifts. Perhaps you will find a way to make a continued gift of benevolence to St. Paul's to support our church and the activities we promote. When you decide you are prepared to remember your church in your life planning, we can provide you with the information and resources necessary to do so. I believe we were told during one of our stewardship campaigns that a “giving church is a growing church” and I definitely see we are growing.

Under Belinda's direction, we maintain a connection with the Frederick Soup Kitchen to provide a meal about once a quarter to those who are struggling to make ends meet. This benevolence also allows for the staff at the soup kitchen to take a breather from the daily meals they provide. St. Paul's sponsored several food drives over the last year and we participated in the Annual Stocking Stuffer Event in conjunction with other neighbors in Walkersville. St. Paul's is active in our community and there is probably a whole lot more we could do for our neighbors in the area. Are you aware of an entity that would benefit from our benevolence and how is it that you can be involved? We are seeking opportunities to minister and be with those who are our siblings in Christ, those who may just need a bit of assistance to move forward, and those with whom we can share the core of our logo “Cultivating and Nourishing Mind, Body, and Spirit.”

Now is our opportunity to have our voices heard throughout the community and share our faith as Peter did on the first Pentecost. Though in most circumstances, actions speak louder than words. Our outreach on May 15 brought a lot of joy to our congregation and our community. I believe St. Paul's was extremely successful in ministering, witnessing, and loving our community during our recent Strawberry Festival. I am thankful for all of the volunteers who spent countless hours preparing, baking, and setting up the Festival and to those for their work on the yard sale. I look forward to exploring new ways to be servants with you in our church and perpetuating our benevolence for generations to come..

God gave and so can we!

Peace, Pastor Phil

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 1<sup>st</sup> — Executive Council 7pm

June 2<sup>nd</sup> — FEC Meet and Greet 10am-3pm

June 8<sup>th</sup> — Congregational Life 7pm

June 9<sup>th</sup> — FEC Meet and Greet 10am-3pm

June 10<sup>th</sup> — Media and Technology 10am

June 19<sup>th</sup> — **Juneteenth**

June 20<sup>th</sup> — **Father's Day**

June 23<sup>rd</sup> — FEC Meet and Greet 10am-3pm

June 27<sup>th</sup> — OUTDOOR Worship with Communion

June 28<sup>th</sup> — Worship & Arts 7pm

