



Epistle

Monthly Newsletter of Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church | May 2021
19 West Pennsylvania Avenue, Walkersville, MD 21793
WWW.SAINTPAULSLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG , 301-845-4600

May Birthdays

May 3 rd	Keith Horton Luke Zeller
May 4 th	Kay Wachter
May 5 th	Lauren Johnson
May 12 th	Thomas Kutz
May 20 th	Connie Chesnik
May 21 st	Marie Purswell Julio Valcarcel III
May 22 nd	Jeff King
May 24 th	Milton Denn
May 27 th	Cassandra King Noah King
May 28 th	Ellen Bucheimer
May 29 th	Brenda Bruning Dustin Burriss
May 30 th	Linda Yopp

Spring is a hopeful season! It brings renewal and change; from darkness to light, from cold to warmth, from grey to explosions of color. It is a time for new growth in gardens and our spirits. The new life, new beginnings, and bright, vivid new look that spring brings are hopeful signs that life on this earth renews again and again. We don't linger in any one season or rhythm in life indefinitely. Seasons change.

17 So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; what is old has passed away look, what is new has come! 18 And all these things are from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and who has given us the ministry of reconciliation. 19 In other words, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting people's trespasses against them, and he has given us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making his plea through us. We plead with you on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God!" 21 God made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we would become the righteousness of God. — 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Let's embrace this Spring by encouraging ourselves and others to live out our faith daily. Daily devotions and scripture readings are a wonderful way to do this. A couple suggestions are the Christ In Our Home Devotional Booklet or the daily devotions at www.luthersem.edu/godpause/. Renew your spirit and grow your faith this Spring!

"Do not let the behavior of others destroy your inner peace"
—Dalai Lama

Council's Corner

We have a delivery date!!

Our new organ will be shipped to us at the end of June!

Installation should take about a week.

Thank you all who made this wonderful project come true!

The generosity of the hearts of Margaret Powers and Esther Filler played a great role in the success of this project. I also want to thank Dr. Elizabeth Krouse for the time and effort she spent in giving concerts for the sole benefit of raising funds for the upkeep of the Moller organ which we were able to use to assist in this purchase.

Our Moller organ has been loved and used for so long that it became economically challenging to keep in good order.

The contract for this purchase was signed with The Allen Organ Company on February 11, 2020.

The new Allen Organ will look very similar to our current Moller, as you sit in the congregation. It is an electronic instrument that can sound like an organ or piano or the whole orchestra as we see fit!

Another project that was executed by the Worship and Arts committee was the development of the COVID-19 reopening plan. This involved research to discern the town, county, state and national guidelines for keeping everyone safe during this pandemic. Many thanks to Deb Horton for putting it in readable form! The plan is available to anyone who would like to read it.

Council's Corner Continued

I would also like to invite anyone interested to volunteer for the activities of worship. It is not necessary to be a committee member to volunteer.

Some opportunities are as follows:

Ushers... contact Kay Wachter

Lectors...contact Ellen Bucheimer

Communion Preparation...contact Candy Foucart

Flowers...contact Patty Rimel

Many thanks for everyone's continued support of the Worship and Arts Committee

Betsy Galliher

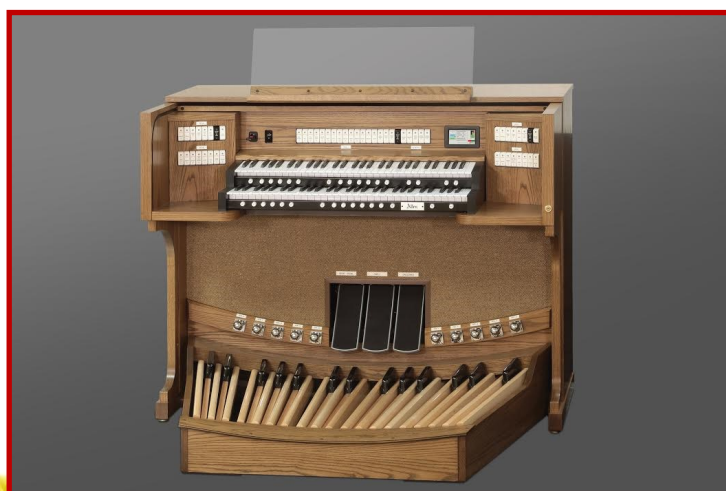
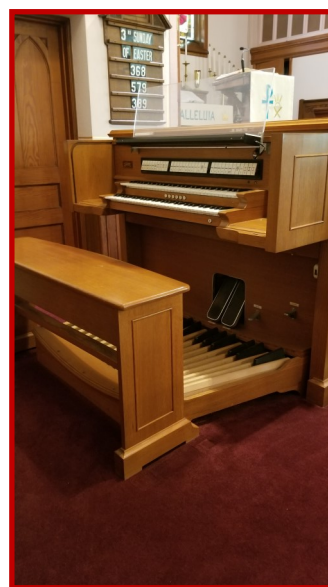
Chair

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

—Henry Stanley Haskins



Honoring the old and embracing the new.....



A Bag of Their Own



May is Foster Care Month.

St. Paul's is reaching out to those children who have been removed from their homes for various reasons but usually happens quickly with their meager belongings transported in trash bags. We are putting together bags with a few hygiene and comfort items for these children as they come through the local intake home.

Our goal is to assemble 50 bags for these children to call their own. Donations of the items listed will take place through May 15th. If you feel called to financially support a bag please see Belinda or Pastor Phil for details on how you can sponsor a bag. If you have any questions or would like to be involved in the assembly, please contact Belinda at youthandfamily@saintpaulsluth ranchurch.org. Thank you for participation and prayers for this project and the children in need in our community.

Items Needed:

- ♦ Shampoo/Conditioner
- ♦ Body Wash
- ♦ Bath Puff/loofah/sponge
- ♦ Toothbrush
- ♦ Toothpaste
- ♦ 24 count crayons
- ♦ Drawing pad/sketch book
- ♦ Small flashlight
- ♦ New stuffed animal

These items will be assembled in a new bag with a small blanket.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for May 21st from 10am until 4pm. To grab your appointment before scheduling is opened to the public use this link for St. Paul's members and friends:

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=St%20Pauls%20Lutheran%20Walkersville>

If you would like to volunteer during the drive please contact the office to sign up for a time. Thank you for continuing to support this partnership and saving lives in our community.



"Revere life, respect life. There is nothing more holy than life, nothing more divine than life." Osho

Pastor's Peace

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31

In the recent weeks we have not had much to hope for in our world, there are riots, shootings, disease, and a host of other issues which continue to weigh on our hearts. We have received the gift of hope in the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. These are the times when we turn to the stranger in our midst knowing that he will never leave us. We turn to the stranger knowing the full story of his message to us, Peace be with you. This is what I feel we are in need of and this is exactly what we have when we embrace Jesus. We have been commissioned to go out into the world proclaiming Jesus and more importantly proclaiming repentance and forgiveness in his name.

The commission has been challenging over the last year where we have had to quarantine, be separated from love ones, and continue to find uncertainty in our everyday lives. I know that for me, being able to be in fellowship with you in person, has been one of the most difficult obstacles to overcome. I struggle every day not being able to visit with you in your homes and have only recently been able to visit some folks in the hospital. Who I am is one who wants to be at your side and making those connections over the phone does not cut it in my book. I have purposely stayed away so as to not bring potential virus into your midst, but am feeling a little more confident as I am fully vaccinated. I still believe it is too soon to risk seeing some of you in person until there is a clearer picture of where we stand.

However, we have been able to be live in worship as well as continue to spread the Good News virtually. Easter Sunday we had over 95 people in attendance for our three services (8am outdoors, 0930am live inside, and 0930 live on Face Book) which says a lot for the ministry we have at St. Paul's. Hope is alive at St. Paul's and I continue to be excited for the people and ministries that continue to thrive. For example, our media outreach brought in visitors for Easter in a family searching to be back inside the church doors, as well as searching for a new church family. We have to continue to remind ourselves that our ministries revolve around the church and more importantly, in our community where we must not be afraid to be outside of our building proclaiming Jesus.

I will be speaking with the Worship and Arts Committee about changes to our worship format, as well as the possibility for an outdoor service on a more regular basis. These endeavors pose their own challenges in music availability, other concerns, and the need to remain vigilant in our current pandemic posture. It is important that we continue to practice safe distancing, masking, and sanitizing. I ask you to search your hearts to see where you can be part of the solutions around our sanctuary or make suggestions as to how we can serve our community better.

We have been given the gift of hope in Christ Jesus, how will you share that hope and how will you live a life like Him?

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

Peace Pastor Phil

Email: pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org
Cell phone: 202-497-0584



"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."
Mark 11:24

Strawberry Festival

Strawberry Festival is back!!
Volunteers needed Saturday, May 15th from 10am-4pm

Although we have scaled back the Strawberry Festival to accommodate for the community's safety we still need volunteers before, during and after the festival. Please check out the home page of our website or your weekly email for the sign up links. There is one for volunteer sign up and one for donations including shortcakes and bake sale items.

What's Happening?

St. Paul's is excited to offer, as a community outreach, a free hot dog, chips and water while supplies last. The Strawberry Tent will be still be offering for purchase Strawberry Shortcakes with the works! And we plan to offer a bake sale table as well. We will not be encouraging crowds by offering seating or live entertainment this year. These changes will not dampen the spirit of the day or the excitement of being out in the community once again.

The Festival will run from 10am until 2pm on Saturday, May 15th—we are praying for good weather and a fantastic turn out!

*****Rain Date: May 22, 2021***



Coordinators can answer your questions:

Strawberry Shortcake Tent

Betsy Galliher
Candy Foucart

Food Tent

Marie Purswell

Welcome Tent

Marcia Gupta

Bake Sale Tent

Shirley Merando

Youth Yard Sale

Belinda Burriss

(if you do not have a church directory and need to reach one of the coordinators please contact the office)



"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans."
- Proverbs 16:3

Youth Yard Sale | Walkersville Day!!

Thank you all for holding on to your donations until it was safe to have a yard sale and we are ready to accept all those stored treasures and find them another home. We will be collecting donations on the parsonage porch, beginning Sunday, May 9th.



Please make sure donations are boxed or bagged to prevent weather damage and left on the parsonage porch in the marked area. Thank you so much and if you'd like to donate some time instead, we would appreciate the help setting up Thursday evening and Friday weather permitting. And the sale will be held Saturday, May 15th from 8am until 3pm.

Again, thank you for your patience in purging your COVID cleanout! All proceeds will go to support this summer's "Where We Are" mission project. More to come about that in June. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please reach out to Belinda at youthandfamily@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org.

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

Hebrews 11:1

PRAISE GARDEN UPDATE

Garden Tales is a preschool story time held in the garden Tuesdays at 10:30am. We look forward to sharing some time among the pages of few good books surrounded by growing plants. There is no need to register, just show up, we love having you there!

Roots & Wings is a garden devotion after church on Sundays beginning May 9th. All are welcome to spend some time seeing the lessons of the Bible come to life and grow in the garden beds.

