

Epistle

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERN CHURCH | WALKERSVILLE, MARYLAND | JULY 2021

Celebrating 130 years of Ministry in the Walkersville Community!

Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church was formed on July 6, 1891, responding to interest of 30-40 persons for a Lutheran congregation. Officers were elected and constitution was adopted. We have been blessed to be a part of the Walkersville Community for 130 years. This month we will look back with periodic posts on our Facebook page, which can also be viewed on our website. We would all benefit from hearing about your time here

at St. Paul's; being in a community of faith is deepened through shared history. As we celebrate God's blessings this month, consider sharing some of the ways God has blessed you through this community of believers at St. Paul's. Share your stories in the daily posts on Facebook or send them to the office to be integrated into the weekly emails. God is good all the time!

WALKERSVILLE CARNIVAL

The Walkersville Volunteer Fire Company Carnival will be held this year from Monday, July 5th to Saturday, July 10th. In the past members of St. Paul's have been faithful in providing help to the Fire company for this event and that has been greatly appreciated. Again, this year the Fire Company is requesting the help of St. Paul's for this event. There will be no buffet dinners this year, but help is needed in the Food Building and various other places on the grounds. If you can help, just show up any night and help for whatever time fits in your schedule. The hours of the Carnival are roughly from 5:00pm until 10:00pm. Feel free to come anytime and stay as long as you wish. Thanks again for your continued support. Any questions, feel free to contact Vaughn Zimmerman, Carnival Chairperson at 240-772-7039

July Birthdays

- July 5th Michael King
Barbara Sofinowski
- July 7th Marion Ake
- July 12th Kathleen St. Denis
- July 13th Nicklas Pank
- July 15th Kelly Anderson
Jesse Burris
- July 19th Arthur Fauble
Shirley Merando
- July 20th Jean Kelley
Lauren McCloskey
- July 28th Mary Ann Conley
Betty Schubert
- July 31st Zachary Zeller

Summer of Service

Since 2005, St. Paul's youth group has ventured off on mission trips, but this summer we will be taking the opportunity to serve "Where We Are" with a summer of service throughout the month of July. A number of projects will be set up including serving at the soup kitchen (July 24 th),

Christmas in July at Victoria Park, painting the social hall (weekday evenings TBD), foster care school bags (date TBD), a community clean-up and picnic (both July 31 st), with other possibilities in the works. We encourage the congregation to participate as they are able, to

experience a bit of a mission trip experience. If you would like to receive regular communications about the projects this month, please contact Belinda to be added to the Where We Are mailing list. You can call the office or email her at youthandfamily@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org.

Project updates will be posted on Facebook and in the weekly emails. Usually, we would have specific prayer partners for that intensive week of service but are asking instead that you add those serving and being served to your daily prayers this Month.

"Peace begins with a smile." -Mother Teresa

Garden Tales -- Storytime in the Praise Garden

Every Tuesday at 10:30am all are invited to join us as we grow this summer!

St. Paul's is not having a week-long VBS this summer, but all are invited to continue to learn and grow weekly in the Praise Garden. And if you are interested in participating in the summer of service with the youth group, please contact Belinda. There is still much going on at St. Paul's this summer!



It was not the commitment of time that gave me pause, but rather if I was a good choice to help others in their time of need. The training for Stephen Ministry gave me tools and the confidence. Most importantly, I came to realize, Jesus would always be with me.

My first experience was challenging. Early in the journey it was evident that I was not going to solve any problems, but I listened. Being able to talk without being judged, gave her some peace and direction. After 2 years, the formal relationship came to an end. We continue to talk occasionally.

Stephen Ministry gives the opportunity to help another through a difficult time. I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to be a part of a few of the journeys.

Connie Chesnik

Council's Corner

Our Congregational Life committee chose Build a Bed for our local benevolence this month. We are helping provide beds for children. Thank you all for making this possible. The committee is also working out the details of our upcoming Church Picnic for this summer. The Committee welcomes new members.

Belinda is continuing to have Story Time outside with our Praise Garden for the children of our community every Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. All are welcomed to hear stories, plant seeds and water our praise garden, and even feed the chickens if you would like! In-person religious education plans are in the works for the fall with more detail to follow. Belinda will be needing teachers, so we ask that you prayerfully consider.

The Organ installation is set for July 6, 2021!

Tech and Media committee have ordered all the sound system and security equipment. We are waiting for them to arrive to begin installation. The resource computer for the church is almost ready to go and should be available soon.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support of St. Paul's during this Covid Pandemic.

As of **July 1, 2021**, we are making the following updates to our Covid Plan:

- Masks are optional but encouraged to wear if not vaccinated for your protection and everyone else's.
- Communion will stay at the end of the service.
- One entrance for Sign-in for contact tracing to continue.
- Maintain social distancing, seating yourself every other pew.
- Small groups may choose amongst themselves to wear mask or make optional.

We have everyone in the congregation in our prayers and hope to be seeing you soon.

"When you find peace within yourself, you become the kind of person who can live at peace with others."

—Peace Pilgrim

VACATION TIME

Heading out of town this summer? Do you still wish to give your tithe to St. Paul's? Remember to use our easy electronic *give* option on our Website.

Be Safe and Enjoy!

www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

—2 Corinthians 9:6

SUMMER AT THE FOOD BANK

Summer at the Food Bank Means fewer donations are received, and our shelves can get bare.

Hunger doesn't take a summer vacation, and neither do our clients. Donate a food item for every day you are on vacation (or every day you wish you were on vacation).

Items most in need are shampoo/conditioner, toilet paper, cereal, macaroni and cheese, and Hamburger Helper. Other needs are peanut butter, canned fruit, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, canned peas, and baked beans.

If you have a garden, please remember the Food Bank. Our clients love fresh garden fruit and vegetables throughout the summer. Food Bank Email: gvfb21w@gmail.com.

Please bring your donations to the donation bin on the side of Town Hall.

PASTOR'S PEACE

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you? And the king will answer them, ‘I tell you the truth, just as you did it for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it for me.’” Matthew 25:35-40

Too often when we think of servanthood we equate that to being subordinate or lesser than those with whom we are interacting. Yet when Jesus teaches us to be good Christians, we are instructed to be servant to all, to put others first, and to embrace our role as a servant. I would counter that we are not subordinate, we are coming alongside others who may be in need of support, such as food or drink or money or services. Last month I spoke of benevolence and how we at St. Paul's have come together in many ways to serve our community and our church and as we become more comfortable in our surroundings, there are ways in which St. Paul's and our community are in need of servants.

The garden outside the church needs tending and would benefit from someone using their vision and talents as a gardener to recreate this space of peace and meditation. FEC will be placing new benches in the garden with

some bearing messages for our church faithful. Service to our church can be that easy, just devoting a little bit of time to enhance the beauty of what is already a lovely space

During the summer, our youth will embark on several projects in our church and community to benefit those who may not be as fortunate as we, or who may just need a ray of hope in their life. On September 12, 2021, Congregational Life will be supporting the ELCA in their efforts to promote God's Work, Our Hands which will be a day of service to our community. Several projects are being discerned for this day of action where we can serve others as witness to our evangelism. I encourage you to reach out to those committee members to pledge your support, not only on this day, but in the everyday life of our church.

Our servanthood doesn't stop with the committees of our church. Servanthood comes from you as well, issues or projects you feel are important can always be addressed and added to the mix. Servanthood needs your input, support, and participation and I ask you to find ways to be involved.

Enjoy the 4th of July.

When you do it for one of my siblings, you do it for me.

Peace, Pastor Phil

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, August 8th

Blessing of the Backpacks at 9:30am
Worship Service



Friday, August 27th

Red Cross Blood Drive,
10:00am to 4:00pm

