

# Epistle

Monthly Newsletter of Saint Paul's Lutheran Church  
September 2021



## Saint Paul's is celebrating our 26th Annual German Dinner on September 25, 2021 from 3:30pm-6:30pm

### September Birthdays

September 3<sup>rd</sup> - Elizabeth McGinnis

September 4<sup>th</sup> - Clarissa Walker

September 5<sup>th</sup> - Mark Stull

September 10<sup>th</sup> - Phil Smith  
Cindy Stull

September 16<sup>th</sup> - Lonnie Myer

September 17<sup>th</sup> - Justin Pank

September 18<sup>th</sup> - Sabrina Walker

September 21<sup>st</sup> - Sheila Kahler  
Lillian McCloskey

September 23<sup>rd</sup> - Tom Waters

September 25<sup>th</sup> - Rachel Jennings

September 27<sup>th</sup> - Bonnie Easterday

September 28<sup>th</sup> - Dottie Titmas

September 29<sup>th</sup> - Jamilla Eyler

Due to the Covid Pandemic we were not able to celebrate in 2020. This year, even though the pandemic is still making things challenging to say the least, we have found a way to continue our annual event and bring our famous German Dinner back to the community. We have come so far since 1994, but this year will definitely be a first for us. Things are going to look a little different for German Dinner in 2021.

We accepted and rose above the pandemic challenge! With restrictions, regulations, and necessary safety precautions, we are unable to do our customary sit down, buffet style dinner. Instead, we will have a Drive thru, pre-pay, pick up only, take out German Dinner. ***Tickets must be purchased by September 11<sup>th</sup>.*** You can do this by visiting our website, [www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](http://www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org), or you can prepay for tickets at the Parish Office, Monday thru Friday from 9am-1:00pm. Pass the word along. If you're on Facebook, share our event to your personal page. You can also share the post card we sent out with family and friends!

Make sure you get your tickets and let everyone know the deadline is approaching quickly! Join us in making this long time annual community event a huge Success!

**Get your tickets and Drive Thru!**



# Pastor's Peace

*"Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6*

*"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:17*

When I first arrived at St. Paul's there was excitement in the air because you had just agreed to a partnership with Frederick East Classical and subsequently the church and its grounds were alive with the vitality of youth. We are still hoping that our endeavor together will provide the fruit of new members in our church, yet the last year and a half of pandemic have put a severe damper on that quest. Still in all, we have members who have children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews who would benefit from joining us in our Christian Education Program. Belinda has worked tirelessly to provide a faith-based platform for our children, whether it be through her weekly garden bible study, garden tales, or even an on-line version of vacation bible school. Starting out with Tori Valcarcel, Belinda, and myself, with Russ Mildenstein now rounding out the Gathered at the Table Series we have gone through our Lutheran Foundations to explore the Lord's Prayer, the Creeds, Holy Communion, and now working our way through the Social Statements of the ELCA.

This is just the tip of the iceberg for us as we have great plans for our upcoming Sunday School year for kids and adults as well. While we are still working out the format for adult Sunday School, we have several thoughts and options planned. However, in order for us to have a successful children's education year we need a few things on a consistent basis. First and foremost, we need your kids and knowing who will be in attendance will be a great help for structuring the educational program.

Belinda is planning on using the one room schoolhouse format, of which you can touch base with her for further details. Second, we need volunteers to teach, mentor, and be with our children as we continue their faith formation. We cannot do it alone and would appreciate all the assistance we can get. The more folks we have to help, the less the burden will be on you to participate with our youth and make it more enjoyable for all involved.

Currently, we are planning on having Christian Education the 2-4 th Sundays of the month with the 1 st Sunday being reserved for fellowship, gathering, and reconnecting with those we may have lost touch with. It is our intent that the 1 st Sunday will be similar to the Summer Chat format with various entities sponsoring light refreshments and hearty conversation. Worship and Arts intends to sponsor our first chat on October 3, 2021, in honor of the Blessing of our new organ.

We have a lot to be thankful for at St. Paul's and even more to be hopeful for in our future together. Engaging together in the service of Christ, we will realize the rewards of our efforts and see the Glory of God in our midst. Would you be willing to host a book study, bible study, or other effort in your home? There is more to being a congregation than just being in the church building. I ask you to search your hearts, feel the Holy Spirit at work within you, and find a way to engage in the life of our church. Should you not know how or what to become involved in, I am glad to walk with you through that period of discernment.

*"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25*

Peace, Pastor Phil  
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Cell phone: 202-497-0584





# Council Corner

It was a scant 27 years ago when some crazy kids decided to put on a fundraiser featuring authentic German food. Over the years it has grown into an event people come from far and wide to attend. This will be our 26th annual German dinner having missed last year due to uncertainty with the covid-19 virus. Our committee decided early on to make sure we wouldn't miss this year by doing it a bit different. The Dinner will be a pre-pay only and drive-thru pick up event.

Some things have evolved within the framework of the dinner over the years, but the constant is the food. We still use Regina Bakers recipes to prepare the meal and the wurst are authentically made by Binkerts in Baltimore. We've gone from round tables to long rectangles to seat the increased attendance. A craft and bake table were added. We have a live band playing festive music. The beauty of which is they play for their supper (performing for free). The people working the dinner have changed as well. Due to an aging congregation, we have reached out to other groups to help fill some gaps and build a wider community involvement. The young Marines, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops as well as Frederick East Classical have donated their time with us. I frequently hear people are amazed that our congregation could pull off a dinner for 500-800 people based on our size. It's a credit to the members who donate time and resources every year. Regina told me this has been the case from the beginning. The other partner in this operation is The Walkersville Fire Company. They allow us to use the fire hall for the dinner and we support them by working at the Carnival. This benefits both of us greatly.

The first German Dinner in 1994 served between 300-400 people. The records we've kept show in 1997 we made \$2,755. Our profit in 2019 was \$7,404. We started tracking attendance in 2006 and sold 502 dinners that year. Our most recent dinner in 2019 had a count of 590. Our peak was in 2010 when the Frederick News Post wrote an article on the event, (we sold out in an hour and a half) serving 755 patrons in that short period of time. I'm sure a few of us still wake up in a cold sweat from that one.

As we move closer to the fall it's time to dust off the dirndls and lederhosen and prepare to feed our community as we do each year. I look forward to seeing our veteran and new volunteers pull off yet another wonderful event. Never forget September is for sausage and fellowship!

Prepared by Russell Mildenstein

## "God's work. Our hands." Sunday



**Sept. 12**  
**2021**

**"God's work. Our hands." Sunday** is Sunday, September 12, 2021. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace." *ELCA.org*

On Sept 12th, here at Saint Paul's, after 9:30 worship, (at approx. 11:30 am ), volunteers, in their painting scrubs, will grab paint brushes, rollers, etc. and ride together to the Religious Coalition on DeGrange St. in Frederick to give a fresh coat of paint to the outside building railings! We'll spend several hours making their facility look nicer. This is a congregational event, so, if you feel in your heart that you'd like to join us on "God's work, Our hands" Sunday, please contact Marie at 240-446-1641 with any questions & to sign up. Let's help our neighbors in need!

**"Let the favor of the Lord our God,  
be upon us, and establish the work of  
our hands upon us; yes, establish the  
work of our hands!"**

**- Psalm 90:17**





## September 19, 2021

Kick-off a new year of learning and growing in Christ on September 19th at 10:45am. If the weather cooperates, we will be celebrating the beginning of the fall season outside on the Fulton Avenue lawn, otherwise we will be in the Social Hall.

Faith Formation classes will return to in person participation for all ages. Sessions will be an hour long from 10:45am until 11:45am every Sunday through May except the 1st Sunday of the month. On the first Sunday of the month regular faith formation sessions will not be held to allow full participation in a fellowship hour after service. Adults will meet in the Parish Hall, elementary aged kids will meet in the classrooms in the Education Wing and middle and high school youth will be meeting in the Social Hall.

The elementary age group will be using the Spark Activate! curriculum, which is set up to accommodate a mixed age group. We are still in need of teachers as well as small group leaders at all age levels. Please contact the office to express your interest in helping nurture your fellow believers. Volunteers working with minors are required to comply with St. Paul's Child Protection Policy, for questions please see Belinda.

Your opinion is vital to the programming at St. Paul's, please give us your feedback about what programs you would be interested in as well as topics you would like to address through the lens of our faith. Reach out with your input to Pastor Phil.



## Youth Mental Health First Aid Course—NEW DATE!

St. Paul's is hosting a course, on October 9th from 9am until 3pm, to help you identify and respond to youth and young adults coping with a mental health situation. One in five teens and young adults lives with a mental health condition, how can you help? This course will equip you to assess for risk of suicide or harm, listen nonjudgmentally, give reassurance and information, encourage professional help and to encourage self-help and other support strategies. This training is so important! Registration is open until September 11th and is required for participation. Links to more information and registration can be found on our homepage: [saintpaulslutherchurch.org](http://saintpaulslutherchurch.org). If you need assistance with the registration fee, please contact the office to speak with Pastor Phil, we do not want finances to hinder you from receiving this vital information.

And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

— Romans 8:30