



Epistle *October*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
19 WEST PENNSYLVANIA AVE., WALKERSVILLE, MD 21793- OCTOBER 2021



Harvest Home Sunday, October 24th

An annual tradition in our congregation is to celebrate the harvest by returning a portion of God's gifts to be distributed to others in need. On Sunday October 24th, please bring non-perishable food items to the church. We will be collecting those items at the communion rail. After service they will be counted and taken to the Glade Valley Food Bank. Check the Wednesday newsletter and bulletins for current Food Bank needs

It's also pumpkin Sunday! Please pick up a pumpkin to enjoy at home, on your way out after worship.



**"Don't Judge each day by the harvest you
reap but by the seeds that you plant."**

—Robert Louis Stevenson

October Birthdays

- October 02nd -Tyler Barrett
- October 03rd -Stephen King
- October 10th -Paul Kiever
- October 18th -Sloane Donati
- October 20th -Doug Campagnoli
Gary Wachter
- October 23rd -Morgan Howell
- October 25th -Darlene Kiever
- October 26th -Marcia Gupta
- October 27th -Anthony Jack
- October 29th -Ashley Sube
Rebecca Sube
- October 30th -Regina Cavell
Marilyn Gupta

Pastor's Peace

Pastor's Peace cont'd

"By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth." 1 JOHN 3:16-18

"Generosity is the virtue of being liberal in giving, often as gifts. Generosity is regarded as a virtue by various world religions, and is often celebrated in cultural and religious ceremonies." A group of us have been participating in Generosity Training sponsored by the DE/MD Synod and hosted by Karen Kretschmann in which we have been exploring ways to share our generosity throughout the year instead of just during a specific period of time which we referred to as Stewardship. The group has been so inspired by this training that there are several things they are going to attempt to accomplish in the coming year. The first of which is to sponsor "offering talks" each month which focus on the who, what, why, where, and how we utilize the gifts made by you to St. Paul's. This effort is intended to inspire generous giving by experiencing the different ways we share your gifts with our church, our neighbors, and our communities. St. Paul's has been fortunate over the past years to have benefitted by gifts given for particular ministries to include our new organ and various technical upgrades that have been made in the church building as well as the parish hall. We are asking you to seek ways to increase your generosity as well.

Many of you, as do I get sometimes confused by the spreadsheets and other financial documents we receive monthly and again in more detail at the yearly congregational meeting. In an effort to be more transparent in the use of our funds, as well as to get a better idea of how our funds are utilized, we will be attempting to create a narrative budget. "The budget narrative is sometimes referred to as the budget justification. The narrative serves two purposes: it explains how the costs were estimated and it justifies the need for the cost. The narrative may include tables for clarification purposes." This new endeavor will be the focus of our annual Council Retreat in February where we will have a subject matter expert join us to walk us through the process and prepare us for being able to show faithful stewardship of your gifts instead of just a simple line item. There will be a lot of work, as well as a change in mindset in preparing this information, yet I believe it will allow each of us to better understand how we arrive at the budget that is submitted to you for approval.

Some of you may also not know that we have been working on various administrative projects to enhance our community of St. Paul's. Specifically, a group has been working to evaluate and revise our mission statement. This is a process that should be undertaken about every five years as the priorities of the congregation may change and evolve into new ministries. There is currently a survey out for comment with two potential options being assessed as to whether or not they meet what St. Paul's strives to do in our ministries. The group working on this utilized information gleaned from the surveys sent out to the congregation and from one of our Council retreats. The survey can be found at

<https://forms.gle/o9W2uCE34kZZVKDk7> and will close in about two weeks. The second project is updating our Constitution which will encompass a top to bottom review of its contents and making necessary revisions to meet our current needs. Both projects will be presented to Council for approval, then on to the full congregation for a vote at our annual meeting in January.

There are a lot of ministries happening at St. Paul's and I invite you to become involved in one or more. Should you have any questions or concerns, I am glad to speak with you at any time or please seek out one of your council representatives.

Peace, Pastor Phil

Email: pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org

Cell phone: 202-497-0584

"Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them."


—Ephesians 4:29

Council Corner—Local Benevolence

What is “local benevolence” and how does St. Paul’s, as a congregation, support other non-profit agencies to help those in our community? Benevolence is an “act of kindness; a charitable gift; desire to do good to others; goodwill.” Through our contributions, St. Paul’s sends \$100 a month to the Glade Valley Community Services (GVCS) to support their mission to meet the needs of families and individuals in the Walkersville, Woodsboro and surrounding Glade Valley area of Frederick, MD through the coordination of donations of time, talent, money and other resources. Other ways St. Paul’s continues to support the Glade Valley Community Services through its programs:

- **Back-to-School Program** – donating school supplies in July/August
- **Thrift Shop** – St. Paul’s provides the space in the Parish Hall basement. There is a drop off box for gently used clothing items, etc. in the front parking lot of the Parish Hall. The Thrift Shop is open on Saturdays from 10 to 2. Members of St. Paul’s also volunteer their time to help staff the Thrift Shop during the month of October. *If you are interested in volunteering your time on a Saturday through the end of 2021, please contact the Church Office.*
- **Food Bank** - Did you know the Walkersville Food Bank was once housed at St. Paul’s? The Food Bank is located at the Walkersville Town Hall. There is a drop off box for food donations located outside the rear side entrance of the Food Bank. The Food Bank hours are Mondays from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm and Thursdays from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.
- Did you know that St. Paul’s holds annual food drives to support the Walkersville Food Bank – Souper Bowl Sunday (February) and Harvest Pumpkin Sunday (October).
- Turkey Tree, monetary donations towards food items for Thanksgiving meals.
- Did you know St. Paul’s members also donate their time to the Walkersville Food Bank in serving the community on Monday evenings and Thursday afternoons?
- Did you know that a St. Paul’s member is on the Board of Trustees?
- **Christmas Stocking Stuffer Project** - members make homemade stockings, provide donations throughout the year for the stockings which are filled by St. Paul’s youth (late November).

In addition to the \$100 monthly benevolence to the Glade Valley Community Services, another \$100 in monthly benevolence supports a non-profit agency in Frederick County that is recommended by the Congregational Life Ministry and approved by the Congregational Council. Over time, through our contributions, St. Paul’s has supported many organizations, including but not limited to:

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- The Religious Coalition for Emergency Needs – i.e. Alan P. Linton, Jr. Emergency Shelter, Energy Assistance
 - Blessings in a Backpack – provides food over the weekends for school-age children in Frederick County
 - Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership (SHIP) – provides critical and urgent services to the hundreds of Frederick County youth experiencing homelessness each year.
 - Walkersville HS Safe and Sane
 - The Seton Center (Emmitsburg) – serves all residents of Northern Frederick County
 - Mission of Mercy – provides free healthcare
 - The Heartley House – provides comprehensive services for victims and survivors of abuse

If you are interested in learning more about Outreach or know of a non-profit agency that St. Paul’s might support, please reach out to the Congregational Life Ministry.

“In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”” Acts 20:35

this graphic is from the GVCS website and it embodies what benevolence is all about.





We're doing it again!

Trunk-or-Treat last fall was a huge success and we are planning on doing it again! Save the date for Saturday, October 30th from 5-7pm. Would you like to be a part of the fun? We are for decorated vehicles and treats to hand out to about 100 kids. If you are able to help please reach out, it was a ton of fun; we hope to include at least 12 vehicles this year. For those wishing to partake in the treats come in costume with your bag ready to trick-or-treat, any time from 5-7pm to the Fulton Ave lawn of St. Paul's.

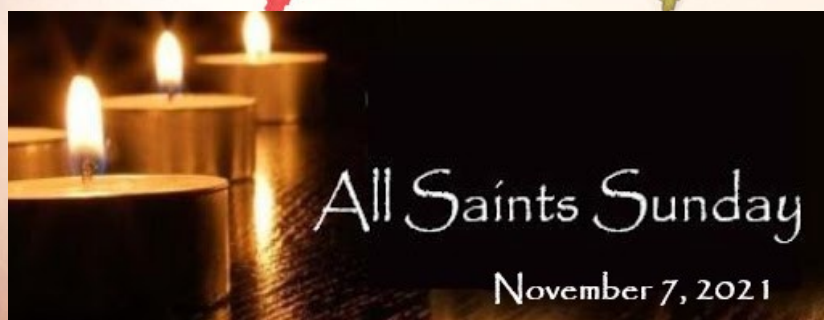
We are again collecting hygiene items for our stocking project, please bring a new bottle of children's body wash or bubble bath and receive a special treat.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Belinda at youthandfamily@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org.

Looking forward to a spooktacularly fun time!

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.

Ecclesiastes 3:1



All Saints Sunday resonates with the conviction that in Christ every saint is a sinner and every sinner a saint. Lutherans especially remember on this feast that it is God's grace that makes us saints. We find lasting rest only in the mercy of God.

At St. Paul's we follow a tradition of honoring all the saints who have passed away since last All Saints Day. We will light a candle and ring the bell for each person named.

Please call the Parish Office (301) 845-4600 or you can send an email @ Officeadministrator@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org to name the person you would like to remember in this way throughout the month of October. Please give the name, relationship to you and date of death. We will need these names by 10/28/2021.

Please address any questions to the Worship and Arts Committee.

Betsy Galliher

Worship and Arts Committee Chair

Christkindl Market

St. Paul's Christkindl Market Plans were approved for Saturday, December 4th from 10 am to 3 pm!

The Christkindl Market is back after a two year hiatus. This is an event for St. Paul's to spread the Christmas spirit with the community. The event will include the sale of handmade items (i.e. ornaments, etc), Christmas bake sale (i.e. Christmas cookies, etc.) and selling roasted nuts.

Calling all crafters at St. Paul's - If you love to make crafts or learned any crafts or design elements during COVID that can be turned into saleable items, please consider donating a few of them to the craft tables.

If you love to bake for Christmas, consider making an extra batch of cookies, etc. and donating them for the bake table.

If you love to decorate for the holidays, we need your help in decorating and making the Parish Hall festive for this event.

If you are available the day of the event, we also have spots for folks to be greeters, cashiers, host/hostess for the various craft tables, bake tables and refreshments. If you can give of your time half a day or a full day would be greatly appreciated.

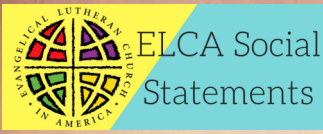
Everyone is welcome to participate. If you are interested, or have ideas to share, or would like to be involved with the planning of this event, please reach out to the Congregational Life Ministry.

Proceeds from the Christkindl Market will support Outreach Projects in 2022.



Important Notice

To the St. Paul's family--Your Council wants to share with you that we have had to make an urgent decision to remove two of our trees on our property because of immediate safety concerns. The trees are located by the parsonage driveway and the large maple just beyond that. (The plan is to plant at least one new tree in the side yard, in an appropriate location to not interfere with power lines or structures.) Given the cost of the removal \$3100 for each tree (the money is available from our 2020 budget surplus), our normal process with items of this expense would be to hold a special congregational meeting (this takes up to a month to schedule and advertise)--however given the safety concerns based on the advice of our tree specialists, we need to have these two trees removed asap. They are on the schedule to be removed Friday, October 1. Your leadership strives to lead by keeping you, the membership, informed by transparency of information. As always, if you have questions, concerns please contact the office and Joann will direct your concerns to the appropriate person/ministry.



"ELCA social statements are teaching and policy documents that provide broad frameworks to assist us in thinking about and discussing social issues in the context of faith and life. They are meant to help communities and individuals with moral formation, discernment and thoughtful engagement with current social issues as we participate in God's work in the world. Social statements also set policy for the ELCA and guide its advocacy and work as a publicly engaged church."



Join Gathered at the Table Thursdays at Noon with Pastor Phil, Belinda and Russ. They will be addressing ELCA Statements and are ready and waiting for any questions, comments or concerns you may have. You can join virtually by logging on to the church Facebook, or you can attend in person in the Nave. Check out Saint Paul's weekly email for more info and links to the weeks Social Statement up for discussion. Gathered at the Table would LOVE to hear from you.

"The heart is like a garden. It can grow compassion or fear, resentment or love. What seeds will you plant there?"

— Jack Kornfield

UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 3 — Organ Dedication
- October 30 — Trunk or Treat
- October 31 — Reformation Sunday
- November 7 — All Saints Sunday
- November 14 — Military Recognition Sunday
- November 25 — Thanksgiving
- November 28 — First Sunday of Advent

