

Epistle

January 2022

Monthly Newsletter of Saint Paul's Lutheran Church

19 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Walkersville, MD 21793

January Birthdays

Daniel Carroll	January 2
Delanie Burris	January 4
Harold Lutz	
Doloris Denn	January 5
Dorothy Fogle	January 8
Katie Walker	January 13
Drew McLane	January 16
Bennett Chesnik	January 17
Kayla Plowman	
Helen Lynch	January 20
Ed Chaney	
Lillian Foucart	January 21
Ella Ramacciotti	
Donna Warner	January 25
Thelma Powell	January 26
Robb Port	January 29
Audrey McDougall	

Town Hall/Annual Congregational Meeting

As we look ahead at our January Calendar, your Council Leadership wanted to highlight a couple of events for January...

As is always the case, January brings our annual Congregational meeting, which will be held immediately following the service on January 30th at 10:45am (or whichever time is latest.) Yes, we will have a zoom link available again to allow for the hybrid meeting.

We have our annual budget to review and vote on, as well as our new council members. In addition, this year we have an updated Constitution to review and vote on. Our constitution has not been reviewed or updated in over 10 years, therefore being very overdue for a 'sprucing up'!

Because we had such success with our Town Hall meeting prior to our last Annual Meeting, we decided that we should allow for that this year and probably all future years. January 23rd immediately following service we will allow for a 30-40 min Town Hall Q & A for the purpose of asking any budget or Constitution questions. The Town Hall meeting will **NOT** include any voting, just questions. This will help to expedite the process during the voting at the Annual Meeting.

Our target date for sending out copies of the revised Constitution highlighting the revisions and the 2022 Proposed Expense Budgets is January 16th, so be on the look out!

We will look forward to seeing you in person and online for these two important dates!

Mark your calendars!!

1/23/22 Town Hall

1/30/22 Annual Meeting



Pastor's Peace

"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.." Galatians 3:28

A few months ago I was privileged to be at a conference meeting of Lutheran pastors from the DE/MD Synod Frederick Conference in which we were given a presentation by Lutheran Social Services (LSS) regarding the resettlement of Afghan refugees in Frederick County. LSS "provide services that foster healthy and self-sufficient livelihoods. We serve the DMV through community services - including refugee and immigrant resettlement, workforce development, and interpretation; family and children services - including foster care for unaccompanied refugee minors and adoption services; and health and wellness services - including CARE for Newcomers, healthy relationships education and Youth Haven. Together and with the help of partners and volunteers, we work to promote welcoming and compassionate communities."

At the time of this meeting, LSS was gearing up for an influx of Afghan refugees as a result of the US pullout from that region. Many of the refugees were people who had directly assisted our military in a variety of ways and were being evacuated because of their ties to US servicemembers and their mission. LSS was in the process of re-establishing their presence in Frederick County as they had greatly reduced their footprint because of a prior lack of need in our communities. As such, the LSS believes they will be in the process of resettling 800 families in the coming year. It has been a slow start to this process but LSS has now secured a base of operations in Frederick City and will be looking for support to complete and continue its mission in our community. Members of the Frederick Conference of Pastors were excited about the opportunity to be a part of this endeavor to come beside our fellow humans and work to serve our neighbors from abroad. As such, we felt it was important to find a way to assist in the resettlement efforts to provide love and support for those who have supported our military.

At one of our Council meetings, I supplied your leadership with information about how we as St. Paul's could be involved in our community to provide support for those who needed assistance. This undertaking is not something that is intended to be a line item in our budget but would arise from a special appeal in addition to our normal giving. There are many ways in which you can be involved in this effort from providing rides to job interviews, providing furnishings for a home or apartment, meal support, and a range of other opportunities to be determined as the need arises. There are three tiers to the request from LSS which range from 3 month support, 6 month support, to support for a year. As a conference, we felt our communities would be able to sustain one family for a year and determine further support as we move forward. Your council leadership has approved St. Paul's participation in partnering with the Frederick Conference of Lutheran Churches and the LSS to find ways to make this undertaking a reality. We will not bear the entire burden as other churches have committed to join this mission.

Further information will be provided by Ruggero Carugi, LSSNCA's Community Engagement Coordinator on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 6:30pm via a Teams meeting invite https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NDMzZTBmOTItYjdhMy00Zjc3LThkZjMtMjExYmJjODlhODZi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22fa74e9e4-c7f9-465d-b782-ac3c83a8ec28%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%224fe38c06-b786-4962-990e-cfef82c76727%22%7d

We will broadcast this meeting in the Sanctuary for those who are interested. I ask you to search your hearts and find it in yourself to embrace this challenge with enthusiasm so we can support those who have supported the men and women of our military. Should you have any questions or concerns, I am glad to speak with you at any time.

Peace Pastor Phil

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

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"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD" – Proverbs 19:17

BE WARM, BE KIND

An Afternoon of Holiday Fun at Victoria Park...

On Sunday, December 12th eighteen St. Paul's members and friends headed to Victoria Park on Sandstone Drive in Walkersville for an afternoon of holiday fun. It started with caroling through the halls and a sing-a-long in the lobby. Then the generous cookie donations were spread out in a yummy feast while we merrily played bingo and handed out door prizes. And wrapping up the afternoon with a smorgasbord of homemade soups. We all had a fantastic time and look forward to more events there in 2022. Thank you to all the volunteers for their time and effort, your caring and compassion brought smiles to so many faces and warmed so many hearts!



*“Keep on loving one another
as brothers and sisters.”*

—Hebrews 13:1



Council Corner

A note of reflection and appreciation from Trisha-

As I prepare to finish my second term as Council President, I was reflecting on what an incredibly challenging, stressful, interesting and enlightening two years this has been. Nobody knew what path we were about to travel down after our Congregational Meeting in January 2020. We thought our greatest challenge was going to be when we were going to Call/Install our new Pastor! For me, I was just praying that I would have the knowledge needed to guide St. Paul's through those next steps and praying that the Lord would walk along with me to accomplish that.

Then there was Covid-19 and all the plans and expectations were thrown out the window and into a great ravine.

I thought to myself, huh, as if I wasn't concerned ENOUGH about leading our congregation...Then I remembered some of the Spiritual Gifts training from years ago that talked about the alignment of ones gifts, passions and time and how the marriage of those in the right time would be in His time. I can't say that I jumped on board right away...however I tried to lean into the belief through prayer. I also utilized every resource through many avenues, namely our Synod Vice President, John Auger. This was how I approached guiding our leadership team through the many challenges that we had in front of us.

Although the pandemic has challenged us in ways unimaginable, there have been many glimmers of positivity, for which I am grateful. For St. Paul's, we had talked, in passing, about technology for many years, but never took that next step. Well we didn't just step, we catapulted ourselves into the 21st century of technology! This may appear to be a lonely statement, but when we realize how far reaching our service, sermons, children's lessons etc are traveling, it is amazing—God certainly is Great!

From a personal note, I am so grateful to our Synod leadership, namely John, supporting our Council President's and Lay Leaders with by-weekly Zoom forums. This has helped all of us come together with our common struggles; offering prayers of support and sharing different ideas to navigate these rough waters as a community of faith. I also owe gratitude to Belinda, Joann, Nancy and Jeff—they may be on staff, however their commitment assuring worship is available, accessible and meaningful, reaches beyond their scope of duties. Nancy's forte is music and directing, but she learned how to run our Mevo software and soundboard!!! Who does that?!? She is deserving of an MVP award!!! I also want to thank Linda, Deb and MaryAnn for helping as hymn/service leaders (soloing is fun every now and then and it is nice for the congregation to hear additional voices!) My husband Julio, along with our oldest son JT, and Russ were instrumental in getting us to the point where we could manage this technology (and continue to upgrade/manage our many 'tech' things on our own.) Again, my gratitude overflows for their gifts and time. I know this is sounding a little like an awards acceptance speech LOL, however I feel compelled to publicly acknowledge these people and highlight all their work.

Clearly, the progress that St. Paul's has made in these two years could not have occurred without our amazing leadership serving on Council—Sheila, Patty, Amy, Betsy, Troy, Russ, Keith, Gary, Linda, Marcia, Kate, Tom, Deb and Maryann. There are not enough words to give all these people enough thanks for their commitment to our congregation and in answering the Lord's call to service.

Finally, Phil...what a way to start your first Call as Pastor!! I said to him the other day, I cannot imagine beginning a call to word and sacrament and not being able to 'actually' minister to people in a traditional way. The challenges we have faced have been felt double by Pastor, I know, because over the first year, I spoke to him OFTEN! Can you imagine, having a certain picture of what your graduation, ordination and installation would look like??? And then having maybe 10% of it occur that way? Knowing that all ministers have felt the frustration's that the pandemic has created, I would like us, St. Paul's, to remember that we still have a 'new' pastor. As such, we should strive to give as much, if not more, grace and compassion that we would to our fellow sisters and brothers in Christ. To that extent I want to thank Pastor for his time, patience, grace and sometimes nudging (lol) over these past two years of my leadership. I believe that as a team we have done our best to keep Christ and His word as our guiding light.

I leave you with a few verses that have spoken to me and wish you all a safe, healthy and blessed Christmas season.

In His Service,
Trisha

Isaiah 41:10 Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

James 1:19-20 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.



***“What the new
year brings to
you will depend a
great deal on
what you bring to
the new Year!”***

-Vern Mclellan

Upcoming Events

Refugee Presentation

January 4, 2022 6:30pm in the Sanctuary

Hat & Mitten Tree

Will continue through January, 2022. The tree is located in the nave.

Souper Bowl Can Drive

Now through February 13th, bring in soup cans for the food Bank. Can we beat our score from last year? You are hereby challenged!!

Family Game Nite

Mark your calendar, February 19, 2022.
5:00pm Soup and Sandwiches 6:00 Games

Are you Interested?

Congregational Life is taking a poll to see if you would like to take a Saint Paul's bus trip to Lancaster, Pa. to see "Sight and Sound" Theatre in the Spring? Email or call the Parish Office and let us know!

These shows are spectacular entertainment for the whole family! The 2022 show is called DAVID. Every show is an epic experience with a meaningful message! We would have bus transportation and a meal after the show. More details to come in the February Epistle.



Many thanks to the members and staff at St. Paul's for their prayers and well wishes and the flowers and gift bag sent to me after my surgery! Your gifts, thoughts, and prayers certainly brightened my recovery. You folks are the best!!

Nancy Cochran

