



# Epistle

## June 2022

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
19 W. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., WALKERSVILLE, MARYLAND  
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*Photo Sunday is just around the corner!  
The event we have been so excited for is  
almost here! That's right, it's picture  
time.*

**Sunday, June 12th** will officially be earmarked as our 2022 photo Sunday. Please join us at the front of the church directly after service. Mike Waas and Keith Horton will be leading the photo shoot and would love to capture as many people as possible.

We will also provide a rain date in case you can't make the 12th, so stay tuned. Following the rain date, we will also provide specifications on how to submit a personal photo if you are unable to make either date. If you have questions please reach out to Mike or Jackie Waas at [jmwaasjm@gmail.com](mailto:jmwaasjm@gmail.com) or contact them through the parish office. We look forward to placing a face with a name in our new Pictorial Directory.

**Refugee Resettlement** - the Welcome Home Team has commitments for ALL of the items on the initial needs list. They are now working on "Next Level Needs." Folks are committing to the items and to keeping them until we can use them in an actual apartment; in other words there will be no central storage location. The Commitment Form is ready to be signed; Pastor Dave has been holding off until someone steps forward to coordinate, but will go ahead "in faith." PLEASE let me know if anyone might feel called to coordinate this effort. We now have TEN churches participating!



## June Birthdays

June 3<sup>rd</sup> -Alexis Bush

June 7<sup>th</sup> -Billie Jo Kahler

June 11<sup>th</sup> -Annabelle Bush  
Dennis Cavell

June 13<sup>th</sup> -Sophie Myer

June 16<sup>th</sup> -Charles Covell

June 17<sup>th</sup> -John Fradiska, Jr.

June 18<sup>th</sup> -Donna Seaton

June 22<sup>nd</sup> -Shirley Eyler  
Raymond Pettingall  
Edward Sell II

June 23<sup>rd</sup> -Susan Hayes  
Mary Ann King

June 24<sup>th</sup> -Belinda Burris



While we prepare for *Ministry Sunday on June 5th*, here is a list of the available ministries and what they deal with so you can decide which one you would like to sit in on. As a reminder all the ministry groups will be meeting on the first Sunday of every month to allow for more people to participate. This isn't an extra meeting it is in place of the regular monthly meetings. If there are any questions, feel free to reach out to me.

*Russell Mildenstein*

## • Christian Education

The Christian Education Ministry Team at St. Paul's aspires to guide believers and seekers of all ages into a deeper relationship with God through education. This includes programs such as First Communion training and Confirmation classes for our youth as well as new member orientation when needed. Our year runs concurrent with the school system, so begins with Rally Day in September and ends in mid-May. We currently offer Sunday Faith Formation classes for children through elementary school on Sunday mornings after worship. Adult Faith Formation is held at the same time. The first Sunday of the month classes are not held to allow for a time of fellowship and ministry meetings. Youth Group activities are offered throughout the year for middle and high school students. Our team also provides summer learning opportunities with VBS. A recent addition is the online livestream component on Thursdays at Noon, Gathered at the Table, covering a myriad of topics from basic elements of faith through the ELCA's social statements and messages as well as current events at the church. We have had favorable response about independent events such as Mental Health First Aid for Youth training and Understanding Dementia seminar. We look forward to learning, growing, and reaching more through the word of God.

## • Congregational Life

Congregational Life is the "umbrella" that encompasses many ministries, including Social Ministries, Outreach Ministries, Internal Care giving Ministries and Health Ministries. Some examples are Strawberry Festival, Caroling, Stephen Ministry, prayer shawls and lap blankets and care notes.

## • Finance

The purpose of this committee is to discuss and assess the financial well-being of the church. The committee reviews monthly financial reports, prepares and submits the annual budget and approves requests for emergency funding.

## • Generosity

In our work together, we hope to provide ways to share our generosity, create a culture of abundance and, share stories of how generosity has transformed giver and receiver, provide resources to enrich congregational and individual giving, and identify tools for effective stewardship. This includes the Lenten program, time and talent surveys and spiritual gift assessment as well as developing a year round generosity calendar.

## • Media and Technology

The Media and Technology Committee is responsible for the communications outreach of St. Paul's, including the website, live broadcasts of services on the website and YouTube, production of electronic support during services, and upgrading security to our facilities. The Covid pandemic presented a major challenge to the church, but the Media & Technology committee has dealt well with those challenges and extended the reach of St. Paul's far beyond the Walkersville neighborhood.

## • Property

Maintain all church facilities and maintenance equipment as well as annual inspections.

## • Worship and Arts

Responsibilities include All worship services, festivals, and seasonal worship. Maintenance and appropriate display of paraments, flowers, worship supplies and banners. Communion prep and supplies as well as seasonal decorations and assistance with music. We also assist the Pastor with publications and special services during the year. Through the pandemic Worship and Arts has been responsible for the creation and updating of our Covid protocols to submit to council.



# Strawberry Festival

The Congregational Life Ministry wishes to thank everyone for their time, donations, and support for the Annual Strawberry Festival which took place on May 21st. The weather cooperated and the event was held outdoors on the church lawn (it was a HOT one). Special thanks to the tent chairs for working behind the scene and recruiting folks to help on the day of the event: Welcome Tent (Jackie Wass), Bake Table & Food Tent (Marie Purswell), Quilt & Plants Tents (Kate Stottlemeyer) and Strawberry Shortcake Tent (Betsy Galliher). Thanks to all who baked the strawberry shortcakes and/or baked delicious items for the bake table and to those who donated plants for the plant sale. It was a wonderful day as we engaged with our community and through Christ, we joyfully fed the body, mind and spirit of all. Thanks to all who volunteered their time to this community tradition, we couldn't have pulled this festival off without you!

Peace be with you,  
Sheila Kahler





# Pastor's Peace

*<sup>11</sup> I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—  
<sup>12</sup> that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith." **Romans 1:11-12***

Engagement is defined as the act of engaging or being engaged; to participate. I often lament these times where everyone is given a trophy or certificate for just their participation, you don't have to be particularly talented or good at anything, everyone gets a trophy for just showing up. I also have felt this has led to a portion of our society where people have never experienced loss or how to overcome losing in some fashion. I believe this is a very important facet of our growth in how we are able to move through adversity and to come beside others who may be experiencing their own difficulties. Yet I feel that many in the church setting are comfortable with just showing up, not engaging, and getting out the door as fast as possible before someone asks them to do something.

Weekly, we put out a reminder of events and ways to participate, consistently seeking volunteers to assist in various projects or initiatives we as a church body are working to accomplish. Monthly we put out the Epistle which highlights the activities of the church and its various ministries. The Epistle also contains a message from me entitled the "Pastor's Peace" which I spend time in thought and prayer in finding ways to engage conversation, thought, or action. For the last two months, I conducted an experiment of my own to see exactly how engaged the congregation is with different things we do and whether our efforts are bearing fruit. For the last two months, I did not submit an article for the "Pastor's Peace" to gauge the temperature of the congregation and to see if it was missed. The result was that it took more than a month for anyone to mention it and only after some prodding from Joann did someone come to me to ask about the article. Some people thought about it and realized they had not even read the Epistle which then leads to people not being informed of events or issues within the church.

Please be assured that I am not seeking feedback or validation for what I write, my intention is to provoke engagement with your fellow congregants, our community, and with me as well.



Healthy dialogue and engagement is what allows us to grow together and further the love of God throughout those we have relationship. The Holy Spirit comes to us to provide us with the teaching, tools, accompaniment, and the companionship we all seek but the Holy Spirit can only bear fruit in us when we welcome the presence. Engaging the scriptures, hearing God's word, and joining one another in healthy discourse stimulates our growing faith in God while walking our faith journey with others at our side.

There are many opportunities for you to engage yourself, congregation, and community in the months ahead. June 5 will be our ministry Sunday where you can explore our different ministries to discern how you can serve your church. Additionally, Thrivent Financial will be here at 1:30pm to provide a seminar on estate planning. Many of you have mused about having children in our church and June 16 will be the kickoff of our summer VBS program. We are still seeking volunteers and those of you who may want to join us on the 18th for the Frederick Keys baseball game. I encourage you to take notice of everything around you, to partake of the gifts our church has to offer and find ways to engage in our life at St. Paul's together.

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace'  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it—  
Prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Through Christ, we joyfully feed the body, mind,  
and spirit of all.

Should you have any questions or concerns, I am glad to speak with you at any time.

Peace, Pastor Phil  
Email: [pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org)  
Cell phone: 202-497-0584

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## God is on the MOVE @ St. Paul's this summer!

St. Paul's is excited to have VBS back in person this summer. The summer long program, begins Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> and will meet each Thursday through July 28<sup>th</sup> with the exception of July 7<sup>th</sup>. Pre-register your "seeker" (ages 4-11) and receive a free Keys admission ticket for June 18<sup>th</sup>'s game! Discounted adult tickets are available see registration form for details. Online registration is available on the website and can be reached with the QR code! Each session will begin at the church in the social hall at 5:30pm with dinner and wraps up at 7:30pm. If you are interested in an adult course during that time please express that interest on the registration form. We also need volunteers to help run our VBS- come for one Thursday or come for them all. If you are able to help serve our young believers please contact Belinda, we can't do it without you!



## St. Paul's at the Ball Park on June 18<sup>th</sup>!

Adult general admission tickets are available for just \$8! Family and friends are welcome to take advantage of this great group pricing! Please sign up on the side bulletin board and get payment to Belinda. You can also sign up online and make payment through the GIVE tab making sure to note that the payment is for the KEYS game. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to Belinda Burriss through the office or email: [youthandfamily@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](mailto:youthandfamily@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org). It's a 6pm game with fireworks! Can't wait to see everyone as we cheer on the home team!!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 5<sup>th</sup> - Ministry Sunday

June 12<sup>th</sup> - Photo Sunday

June 16<sup>th</sup> -VBS begins

June 18<sup>th</sup> -Frederick Keys Game

June 19<sup>th</sup> -Father's Day

*God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does.*

*—Martin Luther*

