



# Epistle

*Monthly Newsletter of Saint Paul's Lutheran Church*

14 W. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., WALKERSVILLE, MARYLAND | 301-845-4600 | WWW.SAINTPAULSLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG

*September 2022*

## “God’s Work. Our hands.”

“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.”

This year, Congregational Life ministry, will trim and beautify an older members' yard in Walkersville. We would love to have many helping hands to make this happen. Bring garden tools and gloves if you have them.

You can tell Marcia Gupta or call/email Joann in the office if you would be able to help!

The date for the work is **SATURDAY, Sept. 10th** (to make it more convenient for folks). Please come join us for helping God's work and giving your time so generously.

## September Birthdays

Sept. 3	Elizabeth McGinnis
Sept. 4	Clarissa Walker
Sept. 5	Mark Stull
Sept. 10	Phil Smith Cindy Stull
Sept. 16	Lonnie Myer
Sept. 17	Justin Pank
Sept. 18	Sabrina Walker
Sept. 19	Robert Hoff
Sept. 21	Sheila Kahler Lilian McCloskey
Sept. 23	Tom Waters
Sept. 25	Rachel Jennings
Sept. 27	Bonnie Easterday
Sept. 28	Dottie Titmas
Sept. 29	Jill Eyler



*“Therefore, we should be guided in all our works by the one thought alone—that we may serve and benefit others in everything that is done, having nothing before our eyes except the need and advantage of the neighbor” Martin Luther  
—Freedom of a Christian (1520)*

# WHAT'S NEW?

## Last Call for Pictures!

Our Pictorial Directory is almost ready for the press. Over the past few weeks we have been busy taking pictures of you and your families for our new church directory. Even though the photography sessions are all wrapped up that doesn't mean it's too late to submit your family photos for the directory. Mike Waas will be collecting photographs until September 9th at [mwaas76@outlook.com](mailto:mwaas76@outlook.com). If prompted by your e-mail server to choose the quality of photograph to send, please select "best quality." Look forward to seeing your beautiful smiles!



*He changes the times  
and the seasons.  
Daniel 2:21*

## Bibles and Backpacks

On August 14, 2022, St. Paul's welcomed all who were returning to their studies to worship to have their backpacks blessed. We were fortunate to have a bunch of kiddos bring their packs forward, especially those who were heading out to school for the first time. We even had one bring their supply pack which seemed a little big for the little doober trying to carry it. With the new school year already in full swing, we were elated to have this group join Pastor Phil in a children's sermon where they talked about some truths Jesus speaks to us and truths that sustain us in our daily life. This was capped off by the gifting of bibles to our rising 3rd graders and although Pastor Phil was chided about writing in cursive, the truths we learned during VBS were inscribed in each of the bibles so each student knows where to find more truths in their journey with Jesus. We are thankful for our youth and look forward to seeing new ways in which they might be more involved in our church and for our elder mentors who give them valuable knowledge.



# Pastor's Peace

*"Love the LORD, all you faithful followers of his! The LORD protects those who have integrity, but he pays back in full the one who acts arrogantly. Be strong and confident, all you who wait on the LORD!" Psalm 31:23–24*

Two years ago we were in the process of contemplating how we would come back inside the walls of our church to worship after struggling through the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. We began gradually, respecting the space and comfortability of each member as we worshipped outside on the lawn and in the midst of God's good creation. Since that time we have worked together to explore a new and refreshing way to come together in fellowship with one another which has not been without some bumpy roads. As many of us can attest, change is often difficult and not without some hesitation or consternation about losing tradition or losing touch with how we had been accustomed to being church.

This past summer, we had 13 children attend Vacation Bible School with a large number of family and friends assisting Belinda with making this year's program a success. We were even treated to a meal each night we came together which heightened our fellowship and spirit of laboring together in promoting the faith formation of our youngest. We continue to offer online worship to those, who for whatever reason, are unable to be with us in person and are hopeful that at some point, those who can, will join us in fellowship together in person.

We continue to be church in our community by sharing in fellowship and worship with the residents of Autumn Lake, as well as our outreach to the community of Victoria Park, and to the Frederick Soup Kitchen. All of these activities are ways in which we are living out our Mission Statement, "Through Christ, we joyfully feed the body, mind, and spirit of all."

We will begin a new chapter in our faith formation for kids this year as Stephanie Isenock fills the shoes Billie Jo Kahler shepherded for many years as our Sunday



## *Pastor's Peace cont'd*

School Superintendent. Stephanie has already hit the ground running and has some great ideas for guiding our youth in Sunday faith formation. The more people we have involved in any endeavor will lighten the load for all, so if you can assist, even if for one Sunday or event, your involvement is appreciated. St. Paul's is continuing to seek innovative ways to engage our community and will be evolving the German Dinner into a new and enhanced experience during Christkindl Mart this December. While many of us will miss the stalwart dinner of what we have been accustomed to in September, this new effort will be a new way in which we engage our community. Please be alert for updates into this event and be mindful of how you can assist if possible.

Christian Education and I are still discerning what the path forward for adult faith formation will entail and desperately need your input as to what you would like to see. When I first arrived here we began with a look at Lutheran Foundations, a bible study into the week's scriptures, and more recently delving into the ELCA Social Statements. Your participation is paramount and your ideas are welcome so that we can develop a gathering that is meaningful and insightful. I am hopeful for our future and our growth but I cannot do it alone, please find ways in which you can be in fellowship with the community of St. Paul's in order for us to grow and prosper together.

*"I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me."* Philippians 4:13

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



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Christian Education Committee is seeking volunteers and donations for Rally Day on **September 18th**.

We'd like to host a hot dog and popcorn stand as well as have several lawn games available for families as a celebration of the new and great things happening at our church.

We welcome volunteers of time to help with cooking, donations of food supplies, and also borrowing lawn games for after service. Lawn games may include corn hole, Koob, can jam, croquet, lawn Jenga, etc.

Please see Stephanie Isenock after worship to sign-up or email her through the parish office.

• ❦ •

**Calling all Artisan, Direct Sales  
& Parade Participants**  
Historic Walkersville 5th Annual  
*Christkindlmarket*  
Saturday, December 3rd  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Walkersville celebrates the holiday season showcasing historic Walkersville and its rich German history. The festivities begin with a parade to bring people from near and far to stroll the quaint streets dressed in holiday splendor, purchase artisan crafted and direct sales goods and enjoy tasty food.

**Inside vendor spaces equipped with a table & 2 chairs - \$25**  
Parade Participants: Free

*For Additional Information and Vendor Packet*  
go to [WalkersvilleChristkindlmarket.com](http://WalkersvilleChristkindlmarket.com)  
Email: [christkindlmarket@comcast.net](mailto:christkindlmarket@comcast.net)  
or call Bonnie Leins at 240-626-5847

• ❦ •

# Council Corner

## Not ready to commit yet?

Have we got a deal for you. If you've been interested in serving on council but not sure you're ready for the commitment. We are looking for someone to finish the year out in the position we have open. It would be September- January, then you can make the determination if you would like to finish the rest of the term. If you decide it's not for you, we will fill it along with the other positions that come up at the end of the year. This is a great opportunity to be a part of St. Paul's leadership as we look ahead at what's to come.

# ELCA Assembly

The ELCA just had its church wide assembly. Here are some links to view the activity that happened there.

Our synod was well represented. I hope this gives everyone a look at where the overall church is heading and helps us take a look at how we may use this information for our own church. This is a one page summary.

[https://demdsynod.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?  
u=0d270f5f756eaf3850a28b8c5&id=9a719d6b85&e=82fd2549f0](https://demdsynod.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0d270f5f756eaf3850a28b8c5&id=9a719d6b85&e=82fd2549f0)

These are slides provided by John Auger  
[https://demdsynod.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?  
u=0d270f5f756eaf3850a28b8c5&id=9912f3fbf4&e=82fd2549f0](https://demdsynod.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0d270f5f756eaf3850a28b8c5&id=9912f3fbf4&e=82fd2549f0)

Link to ELCA Churchwide Assembly site with videos and documentation  
<https://www.elca.org/churchwideassembly>

