

November 2022 | Monthly Newsletter

Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

19 WEST PENNSYLVANIA AVE., WALKERSVILLE, MD 21793

Epistle



November Birthdays

November 5	Bonnie Leins James Titmas Tori Valcarcel
November 6	Michael Plowman
November 7	Kristen Jack
November 9	Kelly Myer
November 10	Marie Anderson
November 16	Florence Schell Samuel Zeller
November 22	Nicholas Kahler
November 26	Cathy Kutz Travis Waters
November 30	Patricia Fellows

"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving,"
— Mother Teresa

November 6



Please come join us for our All Saints Sunday Service on November 6th at 9:25am.

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.

Join Saint Paul's as we honor
our Veterans

November 13, 2022

On November 13, 2022 we will be recognizing our Military Members. If you have served, are serving or if you would like to honor a Service Member Please send the name, year(s) served, Branch, whether they are deceased, have served or is currently serving to the Parish Office by **November 4, 2022.**





The Red Cross and St. Paul's are teaming up for the last blood drive on 2022 on Friday, November 18th. Donors can sign up for an appointment through our website, please help spread the word by sharing our recruiting posts on Facebook and Instagram. And if you are able to volunteer to check in donors as they arrive the day of the drive, please contact the office to sign up. Thank you for supporting this vital ministry!



Living through a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic, we lived in uncertainty. That uncertainty turned into hope—hope that we can return to many things. That hope turned to joy—joy that we have returned to the many things we missed. We live in gratitude—gratitude to a God who has given us—and continues to give us—all that we need in daily bread. As such, this year's generosity theme is *Gratefully, We Give.*

This year's Generosity Sunday will be November 20, 2022.

We invite you to prayerfully consider your participation in the 2023 Generosity campaign in the sharing of your time, talents and treasures in supporting the ministries at St Paul's in living its mission in our community and into the world "Through Christ, we joyfully feed the body, mind, and spirit of all."

The 2023 Generosity campaign is simple...complete a pledge card and a Time & Talent sheet. Paper and electronic forms will be available for you to complete.

We are always grateful for what God has done for us. God has given us all that we need. We gratefully give to God what He has first given us.

If you have any questions, please reach out to anyone on the Generosity Team:

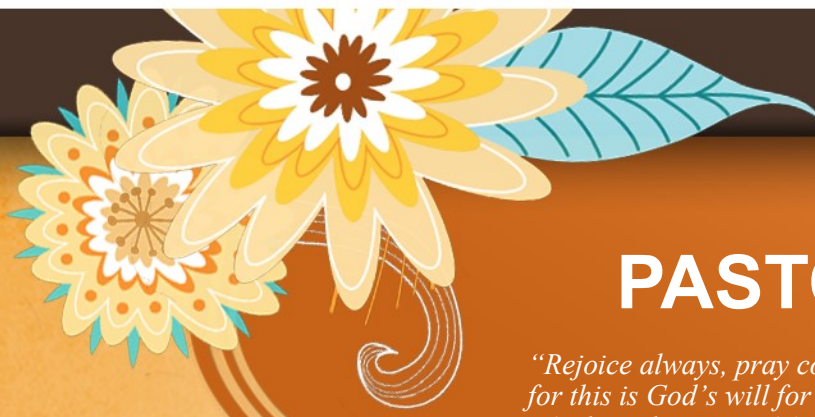
Hope Donati, Charlotte Jones, Sam Purswell, and Sheila Kahler.

Annual Stocking Stuffing: Sunday, November 27th at 10:30am in the Social Hall. All are invited to join the children's faith formation classes as they fill this year's stockings to be distributed through the Glade Valley Community Services Toy Shoppe. If you are not able to volunteer your time and would like to contribute financially please make note on your online donation or give it directly to this year's program coordinator Kay Wachter. Thanks again to Phyllis Dayhoff for sewing the stockings. And thank you to the congregation to for their continual support of this community outreach!

THANKSGIVING DAY

At Victoria Park

St Paul's has a special opportunity to live out our mission statement, "Through Christ, we joyfully feed the body, mind and spirit of all," by providing and serving Thanksgiving dinner to the residents at Victoria Park. We will be encouraging residents who don't have other Thanksgiving Day (Thursday, November 24th) plans to join us in their rec room from 2-4pm to enjoy a shared meal. If you are interested in volunteering or providing food, please contact Belinda. In this season of intentional gratitude, we are very thankful to have been able to forge this relationship with the residents of Victoria Park over the last year and a half. And grateful for the continued support of the members of St. Paul's who lovingly and joyfully share their time and talents! Please email Belinda at youthandfamily@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org or call the office 301-845-4600.



PASTOR'S PEACE

*"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*



Many of us have been struggling with the realities of coming back together after the pandemic and I know I have struggled with the basic fact that we may never have some people return to in person worship or to join us in fellowship one way or another. We have been blessed through the pandemic with the use of our new technology and how we have been able to reach some of these folks and also to welcome in a different group of people seeking relationship with God. Now is the time for us to look forward to our journey ahead, now is the time to be grateful for the blessings that are found in our lives and in the life of our church. We give thanks for all the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. Let us be glad in the joy of St. Paul's and our lives as disciples of Christ.

While we may not see some of the familiar faces we had been accustomed to, we are continually seeing new faces join us and become involved in the life we share at St. Paul's. On October 30, 2022 we welcomed six new members who came to us as a result of outreach by current members. This is what Jesus reminds us of when he invited the disciples to be fishers of people. It is ok for change and it is ok to find new ways forward as it seems that we are doing the work of God by sharing the Good News to those who will listen. We remain hopeful at

some point we will also be able to reach out to current members who are seeking their own journey that they will find their way back to us, we cannot give up our call to love our neighbor.

We can be thankful because of the members of our congregation who work tirelessly being the hands and feet and ears of God. Because of the diligence of our members we have been able to realize the potential for financial support in new and significant ways. As always we are thankful for the gifts of time, talent, and resources shared with our church community so that we can continue to joyfully feed the body, mind, and spirit of all. We have heard the voice of those calling out in the wilderness and through Christ we are answering the needs of those we serve. Our thankfulness highlights the joy we experience when serving others and discerning new ways in which we can share ourselves in our church and community.

Should you find yourself in need spiritually, physically, or mentally please do not hesitate to reach out so

so we can discover ways in which we can come beside you to share God's blessings. We are a church doing great things and have the capability to accomplish so much more. As we approach Thanksgiving, I invite you to take stock of the blessings you have received from God and encounter the attitude of gratitude in how you can share your gifts with others.

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Luke 6:38

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



Faith Formation News

FAITH FORMATION AT-HOME

Written by Stephanie Isennock

Sometimes our lives can feel like they are in constant motion while finding the time can seem to be a challenge. I was recently reminded during the Women's Retreat that we are all given the same time by God. While many of today's conveniences can help us to tackle these items on our ever-growing to-do lists, we are forgetting that the time those conveniences "save" is then to be spent with God. It is certainly a challenge.

Opening up ourselves to forming our personal faith journey means prioritizing God. Other interruptions happen however, for which we can prepare. Each week, your student(s) should be bringing home a family leaflet of how to extend their faith formation journeys with you.

Additional copies and resources are available upon request if you miss class and would like to supplement your child's learning at home.

Contact : stephanie.isennock@gmail.com

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- Thankful Pumpkin Craft
- Upcoming Events



During November, we will be studying the Exodus from Egypt and how to show our thanks to the Lord for all of our blessings. Please continue to use your Gratitude Calendars prepare to share during class.





ELCA Draft Social Message

The ELCA's Draft Social Message on the Climate Crisis is posted for public comment, now through December 2. Social messages are ELCA social teaching documents on specific social topics; these documents shape ELCA policy and help members discern how to respond to an issue. Public feedback helps the drafters know how the document could be more clear, helpful and faithfully Lutheran. You can find the draft message [here](#) and the accompanying survey [here](#). Questions or longer responses may be submitted [by email](#).

It is not happiness that makes us grateful, but gratefulness that makes us happy.
– Gratefulness.org



Turkey Tree & GVCS Food Bank

If you would like to support the Glade Valley Food Bank during the holiday season, take a tag off of the Turkey Tree in the front of the overflow area. Place monetary donations in the brown envelope and place it in the offering plate. If you would rather give a monetary donation on-line, you can go to the website and drop down to the “fundraiser” line item and add Turkey Tree. St. Paul's will send all money collected to help the Food Bank in their efforts to help those in need during the holidays. If you would like to contribute other items to be delivered, they are in need of spaghetti sauce, Hamburger Helper, Tuna, cereal, canned fruit & pasta.



**Save the Date for
MOVIE night at
St. Paul's on Friday,
December 16th beginning
at 6:30pm in the church.**

***Help us decorate for Christmas
by purchasing a Poinsettia!***

Red are available for \$10.00 each.
You can sign up on line at:
<https://forms.gle/ejcCpkLKtnyXR6eR6>
or in person at the Parish Office,
with a check or cash.

***The deadline for ordering is
Sunday, December 18th.***



Thankful Pumpkin Craft

You will need:

- Scissors
- Construction paper or note cards
- Markers/ decorative materials
- Stapler or tape



Procedure:

1. Cut construction paper (likely orange, but any color will do) into strips, or have students cut it. Strips should be about 1-1 ½ inches wide.
2. Have students write something they are thankful for on each strip; assist with writing if necessary.
3. Fold the strips up one by one and staple or tape them together, one atop another.
4. Arrange the strips into a sphere shape, much like a pumpkin (you may need a staple at the bottom, as well).
5. Attach a green paper "leaf" to decorate. Feature as a center piece or decoration!

Upcoming Events

FAITH FORMATION

Nov

6- No Class- Ministry Sunday
13- Free from Slavery
20- Thankful STILL
27- Stocking Stuffers Project



NOVEMBER SERVICE PROJECT:

In lieu of class on Nov. 27, we will be helping fill stockings for those in need. Lists of items needed will be coming home soon!



Winter Love Bags – an outreach project to comfort those during the winter months who are recently bereaved, sick, elderly, unable to leave one's home (especially during COVID) and those we care about at

**ALL FAMILIES AND CHILDREN
ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE!**

St. Paul's and in our community.

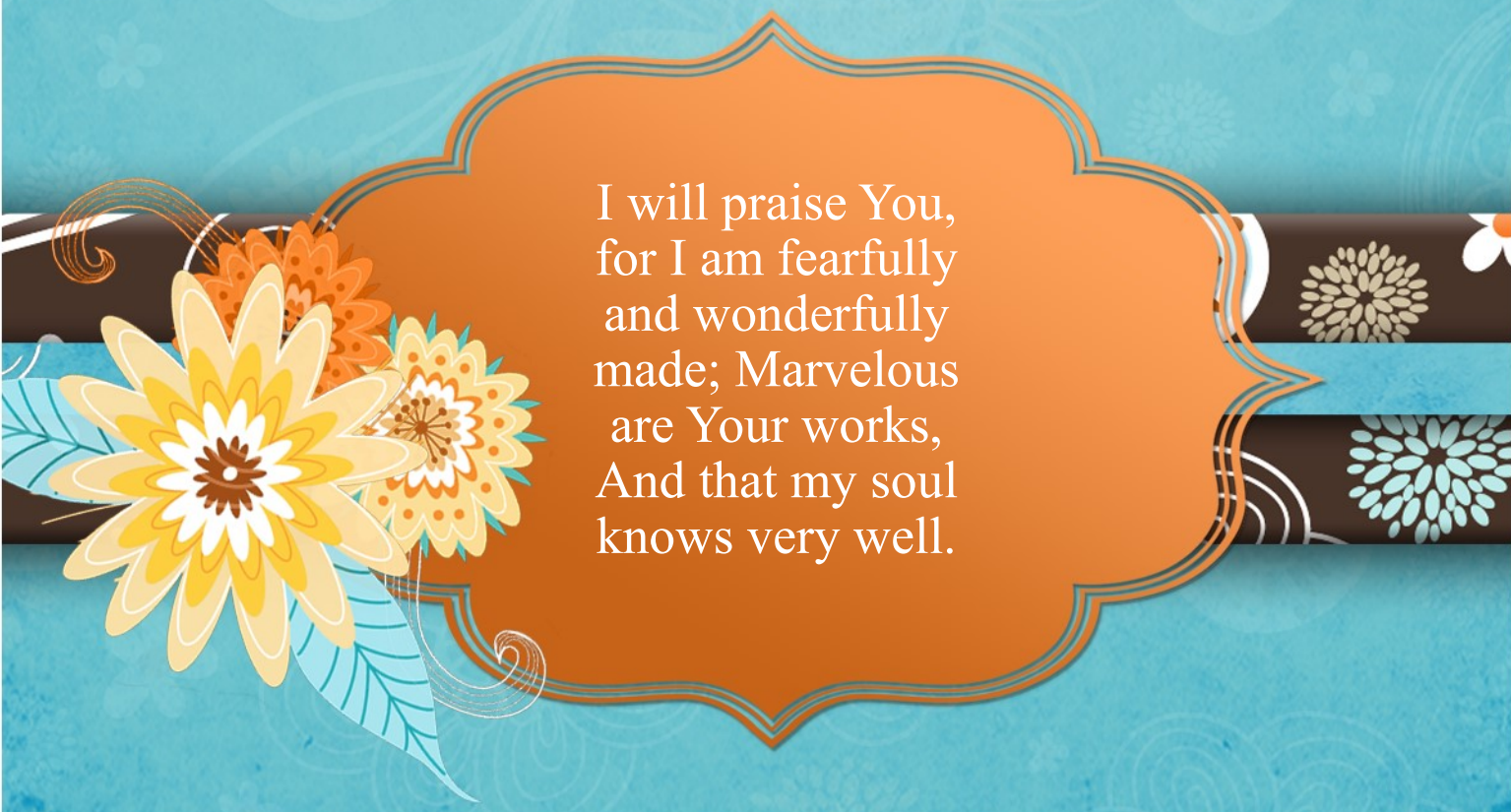
Congregational Life Committee is asking for your support by donating monies or purchasing the following items to help us fill the comfort bags: packaged hard candy bags, cough drops, Chapstick (brand), playing cards, word search books, puzzle books, Kleenex small square boxes, any prepackaged snacks, or anything that will bring care and love to shut-ins.

Now through December 5th – Submit names of loved ones to receive a comfort bag to the Parish Office.

Now through December 8th - Donations can be dropped off during office hours (in the designated bin) or on Sundays (church).

PLEASE JOIN US!!

December 11th @ TBD – Everyone is invited to help with packing the winter comfort bags in the Parish Hall. *Afterwards, we will carpool and deliver the comfort bags and sing carols.*



I will praise You,
for I am fearfully
and wonderfully
made; Marvelous
are Your works,
And that my soul
knows very well.