

# Epistle

December 2022 | Monthly Newsletter  
Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
19 West Pennsylvania Ave., Walkersville, MD 21793  
301-845-4600 | [www.SaintPaulslutheranchurch.org](http://www.SaintPaulslutheranchurch.org)



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

We will be offering several services this year. First, Blue Christmas will be held on December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm. Second, we will be holding our traditional service on Christmas Eve at 7:00pm and lastly, we will also have service Christmas Day at 9:30am. Please consider joining us in person to celebrate the birth of our Lord. You may join in the Livestream services via our Facebook page [@saintpaulslutheranofwalkersville](https://www.facebook.com/saintpaulslutheranofwalkersville). You can also watch live by going directly to our Website, [www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](http://www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org). The videos will be available on our page after the live recording for you to view whenever and wherever you may be this Christmas.

We pray during the Advent and Christmas Seasons, that we all can keep our mission statement in mind and at the forefront of our actions, "Through Christ, we joyfully feed the body, mind, and spirit of all."

## POINSETTIAS

The Season is upon us! It's time to decorate the nave for Christmas!

Help us adorn our worship space in honor of our Savior's birth by purchasing a Poinsettia!

Red are available for \$10.00 each.

Click the link, <https://forms.gle/ejcCpkLKtnyXR6eR6> to order on line or in person at the Parish Office with a check or cash.

**The deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 11th.**

## December Birthdays

- Dec. 2—Elias Plowman
- Dec. 3—Matthew Plowman
- Dec. 4—Candace Foucart  
Benjamin Zeller
- Dec. 5—Jimmy Ake
- Dec. 8—Katrina Pank
- Dec. 12—Charles Easterday, Jr.
- Dec. 16—Dylan Barrett  
Chris Leins
- Dec. 17—Debra Horton
- Dec. 20—Harper Jennings
- Dec. 22—Holly Fouche  
Madelyn Kahler
- Dec. 24—Russ Mildenstein
- Dec. 26—Gary Barrett, Jr.  
Ella Johnson
- Dec. 28—Amy Mildenstein
- Dec. 29—Kathryn King
- Dec. 31—Mike Waas

# Christkindl

The Christkindlmarket is Dec. 3rd from 10am – 3 pm. It begins with a parade starting at 10 am on Main Street and looping around to Fulton ending on Pennsylvania avenue. We will have vendors in the church overflow and Parish Hall selling handmade crafts. Activities for the kids, a bake sale, wreath contest and food and drink available to purchase.

Glade UCC and the Public Library will also be participating this year with events of their own.

Drop off for bake sale items will be in the Parish Hall Thursday Dec 1st and Friday Dec 2nd from 9am-1pm or Thursday evening 6pm – 7pm and Friday 5pm-7pm. Bake sale questions contact Marie at 240-446-1641. All other questions contact Russ at 301-646-3306 or Trisha at 301-606-3095



## End of the Year GIVING CHALLENGE

*We are again blessed that an anonymous donor has offered a matching challenge of \$1,500 to assist where most needed by the end of the year. If members of the congregation can contribute \$1,500 over and above their normal giving the anonymous member will match the contribution.*

*If you are writing a check, please include "Challenge" on the memo line. If you prefer to give on-line, please use the "GIVE NOW" button and choose the undesignated selection in the Fund dropdown and add "Challenge" in the "Note" section. The deadline for the challenge is Sunday, December 25th.*

## Advent Devotionals

We will be using the devotional published by Luther Seminary this Advent season. You can access it several ways:

1. Go to this link (<https://www.luthersem.edu/advent>) and download the regular or large print to print at home.
2. Sign up here to receive the devotion through your email each day in advent (put in your name and email, and check the "God Pause Daily Devotions" box)
3. Pick up a regular or large print version from the side table at church. (limited copies available) Be sure to get your copy!



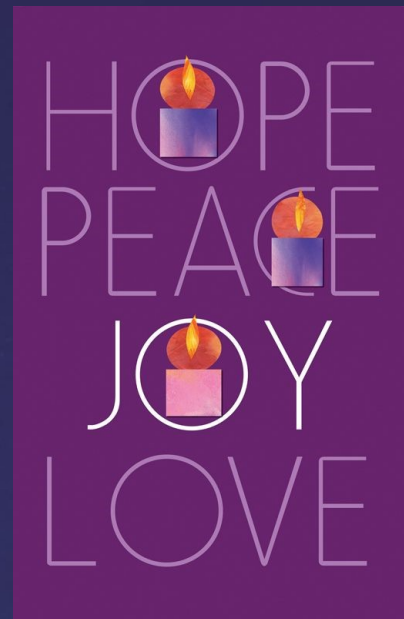


# Pastor's Peace

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13*

As we enter this season of anticipation and hope, let us be focused on the needs of our neighbors in our church, community, and world. It is easy to get wrapped up in the hype of the commercial aspect of the season, but it is incumbent upon us to reflect on the goodness in our lives and the realization of Christ is in our lives, ever present and always the steadying force. Take a moment to prepare your hearts for the commemoration of the birth of our Savior and the promise He will come again in glory. This is the season in which we look to the eternal life we have been promised in Jesus Christ. We remember this promise and find rebirth, reconciliation, and promise for us in our Baptism and in the sharing of the Lord's Supper.

We often find people rolling their eyes when we hear the phrase Jesus is the reason for the season, yet I would counter that by saying that Jesus is the reason period. When we go about our normal everyday stuff are we really thinking about Jesus in our life, are we taking time out of our day to find Jesus in our midst. The question was posed at a recent conference I attended by asking "where do you see Jesus?" The answer from one of the Bishops in attendance was that he had never seen Jesus but knew in his heart Jesus was among us and always present. One of the other Bishops mentioned that when he was preaching, he would see Jesus in different places, the balcony, the outer door, in the pew, sometimes Jesus would be by his side in the pulpit, and sometimes Jesus just sneaks up on him and He is there. FYI, this Bishop is legally blind. We may not see Jesus but our faith gives us the strength to know His presence and the fortitude to go forward because Jesus is here. The only thing we have to do is look to the cross and know something special took place on that gnarled wood, Jesus opened himself for us so that we would be able to recognize the presence of God and take solace in the grace given to us through our faith.



## Pastor's Peace cont'd

This advent season I invite you to take time out of your schedule, take time out of the craziness we have come to know as the weeks leading up to Christmas, and ponder where it is that Jesus comes to you. As I learned, it is OK for us to not see Jesus, we have faith He is here and we are comforted in the gift we have been given in the incarnation of our Savior. While it is OK for Jesus to sneak up on us and be present when He knows we need Him, welcoming Jesus everyday makes it less of a surprise and gives us so much more peacefulness. This Advent embrace the Good Shepherd, Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace and be blessed with His presence by your side.

For unto us a child is born, for unto us a Savior is given. When you are struggling this Christmas season, do not be afraid and reach out for help because through the power of the Light we can all overcome our troubles. Merry Christmas.

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

# Quilting



We greatly appreciate your donations of supplies and monies with which to purchase them. At this time, we especially need cash donations to buy quilt batting (stuffing). To contribute from the pew, place cash or check ("quilts" on the memo line) in an envelope labeled "quilts" in the offering plate.

If you prefer to give on-line, please use the "GIVE NOW" button and choose the undesignated selection in the Fund dropdown and add "Quilting" in the "Note" section. Your continued generosity enables Quilt Ministry to warm the bodies and spirits of those in need. Thank you.

# Winter Love Bags

**Now through December 5th – Submit names of loved ones to receive a Winter Love bag to Marcia Gupta at [26mbgup2405@gmail.com](mailto:26mbgup2405@gmail.com) or 301-662-8044.**

Congregational Life Committee is asking for your support by donating monies for last minute fresh food or by 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 8th - Donations can be dropped off during office hours (in the designated bin) or on Sundays (church).

**December 10th** – Everyone is invited to help with packing the Love bags in the Parish Hall. Afterwards, we will carpool and deliver the Love bags!



## MOVIE NIGHT

At Saint Paul's Friday, Dec. 16th 6:30-8:30pm in the church.

Join us for a fun evening viewing the movie "The Star" along with some "Friendly Beast" activities.

Preschool age kids and older may attend without parent upon early registration. We ask younger kids attend with a parent/guardian.

To register, visit our website at [www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](http://www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org) and click on the Children and Youth Ministry tab.

If you have any questions or concerns contact Belinda. Text or call 240-315-5030 or email: [youthandfamily@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](mailto:youthandfamily@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org)



## Hats & Mitten Tree

**Give the gift of warmth!!** Now through December 16th you can hang hats and mittens on the tree in the front of the overflow area or drop them off at the Parish Office Monday through Friday between 9am and 1pm. All donations will go to Glade Valley for families in need.

## Victoria Park

Christmas at Victoria Park is Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm. Mark your calendars and join us as we spread holiday cheer! We will be having a Chili Cook-off, singing carols, playing bingo and sampling cookies from a cookie buffet. If you are interested in attending or helping to provide food or bingo prizes please contact Belinda at 240-315-5030 or [youthandfamily@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](mailto:youthandfamily@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org).

There will be a sign up for specifics available through the weekly email beginning the first week in December.





# STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

After a recent inspection of our sanctuary's stained-glass windows, the report has shown that many are in need of repair. 19 of the 30 total windows are in need of some kind of repair/protection. The estimate for this work is \$60,470. (About 10 yrs ago we did have some of the windows along the alley repaired/protected.)

Of these 19, the one over the altar is in the worst shape. This window is in need of a complete restoration at an estimated cost of \$21,742. There are holes in the glass, which among other things is a definite safety risk and insulation leak. The restoration would require the window to be removed and fixed off-site. While the work is being done a glass copy of the window would be temporarily installed to keep the look the same. At a minimum, we feel that this window should be repaired.

In order to complete this, we would like to hold a special offering in order to add to our Stained-glass window fund. If you feel called, please consider donating to this special cause. We will hold this special collection until May 14th.



## FREDERICK CONFERENCE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROJECT

From Pastor Dave Simpson regarding the refugee project:

*"I was informed the we have a new Resettlement Manager for Frederick starting in December, so we should start to get arrivals soon. We are unfortunately not expecting any arrivals for Frederick this month, but are very hopeful for early December. I was told to expect to hear more about a family in two/three weeks from now."*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 3 — Christkindl Market
- December 4 — Second Sunday of Advent, Ministry Sunday
- December 6 — Executive council
- December 11 — Third Sunday of Advent
- December 16 — Movie Night
- December 18 — Fourth Sunday of Advent, Christmas at Victoria Park
- December 20 — Council
- December 21 — Blue Christmas
- December 24 — Christmas Eve
- December 25 — Christmas
- December 26 — Parish Office Closed

