

Epistle

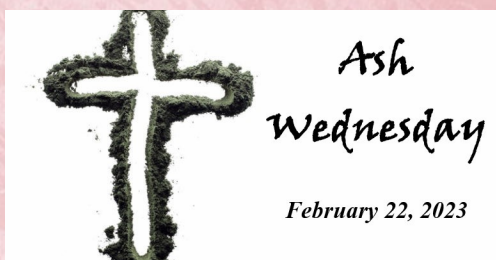
FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Saint Paul's Lutheran Evangelical Church
14 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Walkersville, MD 21793
301-845-4600 | www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org

250 YEARS OF AMAZING GRACE

In honor of the 250th anniversary of the writing of "Amazing Grace," this worship series for Lent by theologian Michael Hoy ties the words of the beloved song to our lives today as Christ's disciples. Those in the Bible who experienced the amazing grace of God help us each week to realize that though we once were lost in sin, we now have been found by Jesus, and though we once were blind to God's mercy, we now can see his love at work in us through our Savior's death and resurrection. Similar to our Advent sermon series, we will have a dialogue between the Pastor and various religious figures from the past.

We will also be continuing our soup and sandwich tradition which will begin at 6pm with worship to follow at 7pm. Ash Wednesday is February 22, 2023 this year with our soup and sandwich fellowship beginning the next week. I am also toying with the idea of a program I was a part of in another congregation where we gathered for Lager for Lent. This is a fellowship opportunity to come together and discuss various topics outside of the church setting. As of this writing I have not determined a time or location for this to take place, but 5pm has worked in the past. Please let me know your thoughts.
Pastor Phil



February Birthdays

Doris Alexander	February 1st
Pauline Flanagan	February 4th
Erica Wendt	February 5th
Mary Ann Ferguson	February 9th
Christianna Kutz	February 10th
Diane Fauble	February 11th
Trish Lutz	February 13th
Sarah Carroll-Clveiekoglu	February 14th
Betsy Galliher	February 16th
Diedre Kopp	February 18th
David Burriss	February 20th
Gabrielle Zeller	February 20th
Nancy Cochran	February 22nd
Debra Plowman	February 23rd
Johanna Waters	February 23rd
Kathleen Edwards	February 25th
Sam Purswell	February 26th
Cynthia Zeller	February 26th
Cameron Chesnik	February 28th

Pastor's Peace

It is difficult to believe we have just so recently completed the Season of Christmas, are finishing up the Season of Epiphany, and are rapidly approaching the Season of Lent. Lent is the season of the church year that follows the Epiphany Season. It is a time we set aside each year to remember the love of God poured out through Christ Jesus on the cross in His death; and His defeat of death, sin and Satan in Christ's death and resurrection that brings Eternal Life to us. This is a season of deliberate reflection and gives us the roadmap leading us to be repentant and remind us of our sin and our mortality.

In the Season of Lent there are a variety of component that when combined in our journey guide us back the Cross and our focus on Jesus. One visual component is that of the use of purple which adorns our paraments and vestments. In Jesus time, the color purple was reserved for royalty as it was very difficult to come by and was most often not utilized by the common people. Christ wore purple only once, a time when He was mocked and ridiculed as the "King of the Jews" prior to His gruesome crucifixion. Purple has come to represent solemnity, penitence, and prayer as God's people meditate on the agony His Son willingly endured. On Good Friday, we will cover our sanctuary in black which represents the absence of light and the curse of sin and darkness which fell over creation, an event that only the death of Christ could vanquish.

Another visual component Lent is the sign of the cross applied upon the repentant Christian's forehead during the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday. It has become my practice to utilize palms from the previous Palm Sunday, burn them, and prepare them for the service. This stands as reminder of the sign of the cross placed on us in our Baptisms, our mortality ("Remember: you are dust, and to dust you shall return."), and the filth of our sin that has been washed clean by the blood of Jesus. A historical/traditional component of the Lenten season is the omission of the word "Alleluia" from our liturgy, as well as the removal of the Hymn of Praise. Alleluia, a Hebrew word meaning Praise the Lord returns in the glorious celebration of Easter morning.

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Pastor's Peace cont'd

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I am also very excited about a partnering opportunity we have been asked to participate in with Bethel Lutheran Church. As many of you know, our organist Jeff Gentry, is a member there. The Councils of both churches have been meeting with Pastor Robin Simpson-Litton to discuss the potential of not only sharing Mr. Gentry but me as well. There are many things to be worked out for this partnership and Pastor Robin will be here on February 19, 2023 to preach and answer questions. Nothing will be decided without the input and approval of both congregations.

Please prepare your hearts for the new and exciting things happening in our lives together and may we join together in this Lenten Season to reconnect with each other and with God. 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

LENT MADNESS

Who will win the Golden Halo?



What do Florence Nightingale, Charles Wesley, Martha of Bethany, Francis of Assisi, and C. S. Lewis have in common? They have all been past winners of The Golden Halo! This is the third year that I have been inviting people at St. Paul's to join a fun, learning experience during the season of Lent. It is loosely based on the springtime college basketball brackets and combines that with the lives of actual historical figures, both famous and little known. The format is simple. Thirty-two saints, nominated for their deeds and life story by the Global Lent Madness Public, are placed in a tournament-style single elimination bracket. Each pairing remains open for 24 hours to allow you to read your daily email and vote for the person of your choice to continue on to the next round. You can read the biographies from your scorecard booklet or the information you are given online before you vote. The online voting continues to move the "winning" saints forward (Saintly Sixteen, Elite Eight, Faithful Four, Championship) until the final winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo. All that you need to do in order to participate is the following:

1. Log onto the website www.lentmadness.org
2. Check the gray box in the top right corner of the page. Enter your email address to subscribe to Lent Madness and receive notifications of new posts by email.
3. Don't worry if you miss a day or two. Life happens. Read and learn as often as you can.
4. Check your email daily once Lent begins. Remember that you only have 24 hours to register your vote each day. It only takes about 10 minutes to read the biographies. It may take you a bit longer to decide who to vote for and click SUBMIT.

In their own words. . . Yes, Lent is a sacred time of preparation, penitence, self-reflection, and renewal, but there's no reason a Lenten discipline need to be dreary as we prepare for the Paschal feast. "Taking our faith seriously-but not ourselves-" is the essence of Lent Madness and it is the opportunity to meet some amazing people who have come before us in the faith.

What we learn from the saints is that they, like us, are flawed human beings through whose lives Christ's love shone brightly. If this love can shine brightly in their lives, perhaps we too can be beacons of the Good News. So, join the growing interest at St. Paul's and experience the fun and the learning this year!

Please contact me if you have questions.

Susan Hayes
Susanghayes623@gmail.com

**Game Day
At Victoria Park
February 5, 2023
1:00pm-4:00pm**

If you are interested in participating in an afternoon of games with the residents at Victoria Park please sign up in the link below. We need some food donations as well as volunteers to attend. We will be providing a taco bar and some desserts, but most importantly we'll be playing games and socializing with the residents.

We have been blessed to begin this relationship in the summer of 2020 and I hope that it can continue to grow and enrich the lives of all. If you are interested but have questions please feel free to reach to Belinda at daydrmr24@msn.com or 240-315-5030. Sign up link: <http://www.luckypotluck.com/potluck/GameDayVictoriaPark>



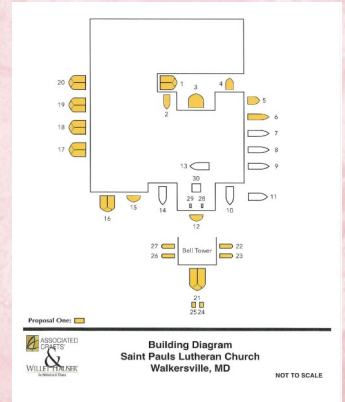
Update: On Monday, January 16, a representative from Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership, Inc. picked up 2 dozen (29) twin-size quilts to distribute to children in need. (COIPP provides for the basic human needs of children affected by the incarceration of a loved one.) Upon seeing the six bags full of quilts, she exclaimed, "Are these all ours?" Yes! She was delighted, and said [our ministry] "is incredible"

Opportunities: Would you like to sew quilt tops at home? No cutting or designing involved. All you need are a sewing machine, scissors, pins and thread. (Please donate thread. Any color will do; it doesn't have to match.) See Kate Stottlemeyer for more information and a quilt kit. Kate will knot quilts on random Saturdays in the Parish Hall from approximately 9 until 3 (or until all the quilts she brings are knotted). Pastor will announce these dates on the preceding Sunday. If you would like to help for a little while, drop in (and out) any time. Even half an hour is helpful.

As always, we welcome and appreciate your generous donations of quilting materials and monies with which to buy them. At this time, we especially need cash donations with which to buy batting (the "stuffing" inside the quilt). To contribute from the pew, place cash or check ("quilts" on the memo line) in an envelopes labeled "quilts" in the offering plate, If you prefer to contribute online, 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, including Children of Incarcerated Parents.

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.



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.

An update on the stained-glass window project.
Thanks to some generous donations from the congregation we have received enough funding to do the restoration of the altar window. We still are collecting donations towards the repairs of the other stained glass windows. **Thank you for your support of this important project.**

Upcoming Events

Game Day at Victoria Park

February 5th, 1pm-4pm



Now through February 5th

Souper Bowl Can Drive, now through February 5th. Bring in soup cans for the Glade Valley Food Bank



Saturday, February 18th

5:00pm to 9:00pm, Parish Hall
Bring your family & friends for food and fun at the annual **Mardi Gras Game Night** with Dinner. Bring your favorite crockpot of soup, sandwiches or dessert to share for the dinner and your favorite board games!
Please call the office to sign up
301-845-4600



Wednesday, February 22nd

Ash Wednesday
Service 7:00pm

