

Epistle



Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Walkersville, MD 301-845-4600
www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 1	Ronald Chesnik Hope Donati
April 6	Dianne Port
April 14	Hazel Kopp
April 16	Francis Bruning
April 23	Charlotte Jones
April 24	Jon Brundage
April 26	Bethany McLane Vaughn Zimmerman
April 28	Patty Rimel

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Holy Week Reflect and Rejoice

Journey through Holy Week with us and Christ's resurrection on Easter.

Holy Week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work: from death comes new and abundant life for us and all creation.

Passion/Palm Sunday

We rejoice with the crowds as Jesus enters into the city of Jerusalem, waving palms and shouting "Hosanna!" Join us in person at 9:25am or virtually via Facebook live or on our website live.

Maundy Thursday

"Maundy" means "command" and refers to the new command Jesus gave the disciples after "washing their feet": "Love one another, as I have loved you." The readings also recall the institution of the Lord's Supper "on the night he was betrayed." Maundy Thursday concludes with the "stripping of the altar," a solemn reminder of the way in which the disciples abandoned Jesus to face the gathering forces of evil alone. Join us in person at 7:00pm or virtually on Facebook live or on our website live as we recall the first Lord's Supper.

Good Friday

Good Friday commemorates the day when our Lord gave his life to save us from our sins. It is a very humbling service, as we contemplate the cost that Jesus paid for our redemption. Please join us in person at 7:00pm or virtually on Facebook live or on our website live as we observe the day when our Lord gave his life to save us from our sins. On this day the body of our Lord is broken on the cross—not at the table.

Easter

The resurrection of our Lord. ***He is risen!! Alleluia!*** Join us for worship at 9:25am or join us via Facebook live or on our website live! A joyous celebration of God's victory over sin and death. Come hear the story of our salvation and celebrate the resurrection together. This year we hear the gospel from John, we share the meal of our Lord, and we sing Alleluia over and over again!

*"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen."*

Hebrew 11:1

PASTOR'S PEACE

Roxanne Smith, Russ Mildenstein, and Sheila Kahler make up St. Paul's side of our new endeavor with Bethel Lutheran Church. This Co-council has already met and come to an initial covenant between the churches which will be shared with each full church council once it has been reviewed by the Office of the Bishop. Once that step has been completed, each Council will have an opportunity to review and comment before sending it to the entire congregation for approval. This is an exciting time for each congregation as we grow together to serve as Christ in our community. Please be on the lookout for an announcement for a Special Congregational Meeting to discuss and approve this joint venture.

We are witnessing in the world and doing great things for our community. The new organ has been ordered, and much to our delight, we have been given several upgrades without additional cost to the congregation. A delivery of quilts/lap robes was made to Frederick Health Hospital as that was a need identified by the Volunteer Staff during one of my visits. Our Wednesday Lenten series, Amazing, has been going well with both online and in-person attendance preceded by a meal of soup and sandwich. We have been blessed to have over 25 people attend each week. Lager for Lent has seen between 10 and 12 attend each week to share fellowship and conversation. Perhaps we find a way to extend this beyond Lent? We hope that this outreach has been meaningful to you as I look forward to hearing from you about your Lenten experiences. Should you have any feedback concerning worship or have ideas for future projects, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

We are thankful for the sustained gifts that you have been diligently providing to our church community. Many of you have stepped up to be ushers, lectors, acolytes, cantors, and soloists making worship more meaningful with a variety of members participating. We will have music at the Strawberry Festival this year which I am hopeful will extend our evangelism in our community. Additionally, you are consistently supporting our church with your financial gifts which have allowed us to take on a range of projects to improve our worship space and outreach to the community. We ended last year with a deficit for a variety of reasons, much of which was an increase in fuel and we are a bit behind this year as well. I would ask that you continue to prayerfully consider how you can support our church in order that we can accomplish other goals for our future.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

Pastor's Peace cont'd

As you read this we are beginning Holy Week with a lot of things going on. We will worship in-person and virtually Holy Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday at 7 p.m. Easter Sunday worship in the sanctuary will begin streaming at 9:25 a.m.; in-person worship begins at 9:30 a.m. I look forward to sharing this joyous celebration with you and your families.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

Peace Pastor Phil

Email: pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org

Cell phone: 202-497-0584

"Change can be scary, but you know what's scarier? Allowing fear to stop you from growing, evolving, and progressing."

—Mandy Hale



**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Walkersville**

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

Celebrate Holy Week beginning April 2nd
Palm Sunday 9:30am
Wednesday—Evening Prayer at 7pm
Maundy Thursday 7pm
Good Friday 7pm

Live streaming available on our website & Facebook

Easter Sunday
April 9th, 9:30am
Service of Holy Communion
 14 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Walkersville, MD
 301-845-4600
www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org

Saturday, April 8th @ 3pm

Fun for the whole family!



**EASTER
EGG HUNT**



And be sure to invite your friends and family for this fun-filled afternoon!

Saturday, April 8th at 3pm join in the fun for St. Paul's annual Easter Egg Hunt. We've got yoga goats and the Kona truck and of course an awesome Hunt for kids ages 12 and under. Pray for good weather and fun times celebrating the resurrection of our Lord.

Too old for the Hunt? Please come out and help us, we have several stations that need volunteers. If you are able to help, please see Belinda or contact her at daydrmr24@msn.com.

SAINT PAUL'S STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Our annual Strawberry Festival is quickly approaching. This is a fun event for St. Paul's to share with the community that *through Christ, we joyfully feed the body, mind, and spirit of all.*

Congregational Ministry welcomes all (adults and youth) to participate by volunteering your time/talents for our annual Strawberry Festival on **Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 9am-2pm.** New things coming this year, we will Jazz up the festival this year with the WHS Jazz band in the morning and we will enjoy a BlueGrass Band in the afternoon!

Please put this event on your calendar and join in the preparations while enjoying fellowship and community in the process!

A sign-up sheet for volunteering will be in the church overflow area. So, please, take a look and sign up! We have so much fun talking to our neighbors and new friends who stop by!

As always, the success of the Festival depends on the volunteers who donate time, money and heart! We need you again this year! We really need people for set up and take down, as well as manning the tables, baked goods and shortcakes! There really is something for everyone!

Another way you can help out if you're not available on the day of the event, **donate funds** to help with the **cost of food items** needed for the event by giving cash or checks payable

to St. Paul's and on the memo line: add "Strawberry Festival" or through online giving (www.saintpaulslutheranchurc.org) GIVE button - select "undesignated" and in "note" type in "Strawberry Festival" to make a donation. Thank you!

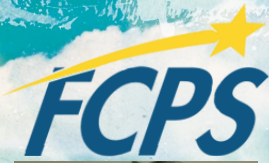
Questions or want to help: contact Marcia Gupta or Marie Purswell. You may also call the Parish office.



Join us for a Spring event at Victoria Park!

We're switching it up a bit and doing a Saturday morning, **April 15th from 10am-Noon** including breakfast with bingo and maybe a few crafts. Are you able to provide food? Check out the sign up in the weekly emails this month. Are you able to provide a few bingo prizes? Bring them to church April 2nd or 9th and drop them off in the box in the library area. Are you able to join us the day of the event? Perfect! Just let Belinda know to add you to the reminder emails and show up at Victoria Park at 9:30am on April 15th! Please feel free to ask questions or voice concerns to Belinda or email her daydrmr24@msn.com.

Looking forward to a fun morning with our friends at VP!



The March 22nd edition of the Frederick News Post had an article about Frederick County Public Schools and the eight employees they have honored in its 2023 Support Employees of the Year Award program.

Among the eight honored was our very own **Sheila Kahler**, Early Childhood Education, honored as the Central Office Business & Instructional Support Employee of the year.

All eight will be recognized at a meeting of the Frederick County Board of Education meeting on April 19. One school-based employee and one central office employee will be selected as employees of the year.

Good luck Sheila!



Quilt Ministry

What is Quilt Ministry?—Quilt Ministry is an offshoot of Congregational Life Ministry, dedicated to making quilts for those in need. We make lap quilts, twin size adult quilts and—our specialty—twin size children’s quilts for distribution to local charities and individuals. Last year, over 100 lap quilts and nearly 90 twin ones were sent into the community in Christ’s name to warm bodies and spirits. So far this year, 2 dozen quilts were donated to Children of Incarcerated Parents.

Quilt Blessing—During the Service on Sunday, April 23, there will be a Blessing of at least 30 twin size quilts. Six of these, women’s quilts, will answer a request from Faith House, a Frederick facility for women with children. The remainder, quilts for children and teens, will go to Sleep in Heavenly Peace (a.k.a. “No kid sleeps on the floor”), a volunteer organization that builds beds for needy children. We have donated to both organizations in the past.

Would you like to help?—

In addition to your prayers, there are four ways to assist Quilt Ministry:

- Sew quilts at home. No cutting or designing involved. See Kate Stottlemeyer for details.
- Knot quilts. Meet Kate in the Parish Hall on random Saturdays (TBA) from 9-3. Drop by any time, for any length of time. No experience required.
- Donate fabric, especially colors and prints that would appeal to children. (Woven lightweight cotton/cotton blends work well.)
- Donate cash toward the purchase of fabric, thread and batting. (Batting is the stuffing, the middle of the quilt “sandwich”, and the most pricey part.) Clearly label your donation.

Lap Quilts Available—Do you know someone with chilly knees? Perhaps a housebound neighbor or an elderly friend? Lap quilts are available upon request at no charge. (Donations welcomed, but not expected.) See Kate to choose a quilt.

Upcoming Events

MOSES

At the Sight and Sound Theater. Thursday, May 18, 2023. \$160 per person. Reservations and payment is due by **April 15th**.

Please contact Kay Wachter if you have any questions or would like to place your reservation. Come join us for some fun and fellowship.



Healing in the Wild, a Day Retreat for Grief and Loss

Saturday, April 8th, Owings Mills—Irvine Nature Center

Any person, 18 and older, who is experiencing grief due to the loss of a loved one. Non-death related losses such as divorce and job loss are also welcome. This may not be suitable for acute loss (less than 8 weeks since the death occurred), If you or someone you know would benefit from this experience but finance is an issue, please call the Parish Office.

Mar-Lu-Ridge CAMP DAY!

April 16 from 1-4 p.m. This FREE event is a great opportunity to visit Mar-Lu-Ridge and enjoy the views, meet our staff, make crafts and try out our archery range. We’ll have delicious snacks available, too. If you have never been to Mar-Lu-Ridge, or if it’s been awhile, we hope you’ll plan to join us for the afternoon!

Treasurer's Report
INCOME & EXPENSES FOR FEBUARY 2023

CURRENT FUND		PROPERTY RENOVATION LOAN FUND	
02/05 Offering	\$ 3,224.00	02/05 Offering	\$ 765.00
02/12 Offering	\$ 1,813.65	02/12 Offering	\$ 370.00
02/19 Offering	\$ 2,609.41	02/19 Offering	\$ 340.00
02/26 Offering	<u>\$ 1,847.30</u>	02/26 Offering	<u>\$ 220.00</u>
Total Offerings	\$ 9,494.36	Total Offerings	\$ 1,695.00
Expenses	<u>\$ (17,323.06)</u>	Loan Payment	<u>\$ (1,522.71)</u>
Subtotal	\$ (7,828.70)	Surplus for 2/28/23	\$ 172.29
Other Income:			
PNC Dividend Income	\$ 577.50		
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 50.00		
Amazon Smile Program	\$ 134.76		
Rental Income	\$ 1,800.00		
Lent	<u>\$ 65.00</u>		
Deficit for 2/28/23	\$ (5,201.44)		

YEAR-TO-DATE INFORMATION FROM 01/01/23 TO 02/28/23

CURRENT FUND		PROPERTY RENOVATION LOAN FUND	
Weekly Offerings	\$ 18,975.02	Offerings	\$ 3,615.00
Lent	\$ 65.00	Principle Reduction	\$ -
Easter	\$ -	Interest	<u>\$ 0.26</u>
Interest/Dividend	\$ 577.50	Total Income	\$ 3,615.26
Rental	\$ 2,100.00		
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ -		
Amazon Smile Program	\$ 134.76		
Misc	<u>\$ -</u>	Loan Payments	<u>\$ (3,045.42)</u>
Total Income	\$ 21,852.28		
Less Operating Expenses	<u>\$ (34,244.97)</u>	Property Renov Loan Fund	
 		Surplus thru 2/28/23	\$ 569.84
Current Fund			
Deficit thru 2/28/23	\$ (12,392.69)	Balances owed on:	
		Mortgage as of 2/2023	\$ 144,511.47