

# Epistle



**May 2023** | Monthly Newsletter of Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

14 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Walkersville, MD 21793 | 301-845-4460 | [www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](http://www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org)

## WE NEED YOU!

In order for the Strawberry Festival to be a success we need your help!

We are in *desperate need* of able bodies willing to set up canopies and move tables and chairs Friday, May 19th from 4pm-7pm.

Bakers we need you too! Please drop off baked goods on Friday, May 19th from 9am-1pm or 4pm-6pm in the Parish Hall. Please see the flyer and check the weekly emails for details!

*Together we can do this!*

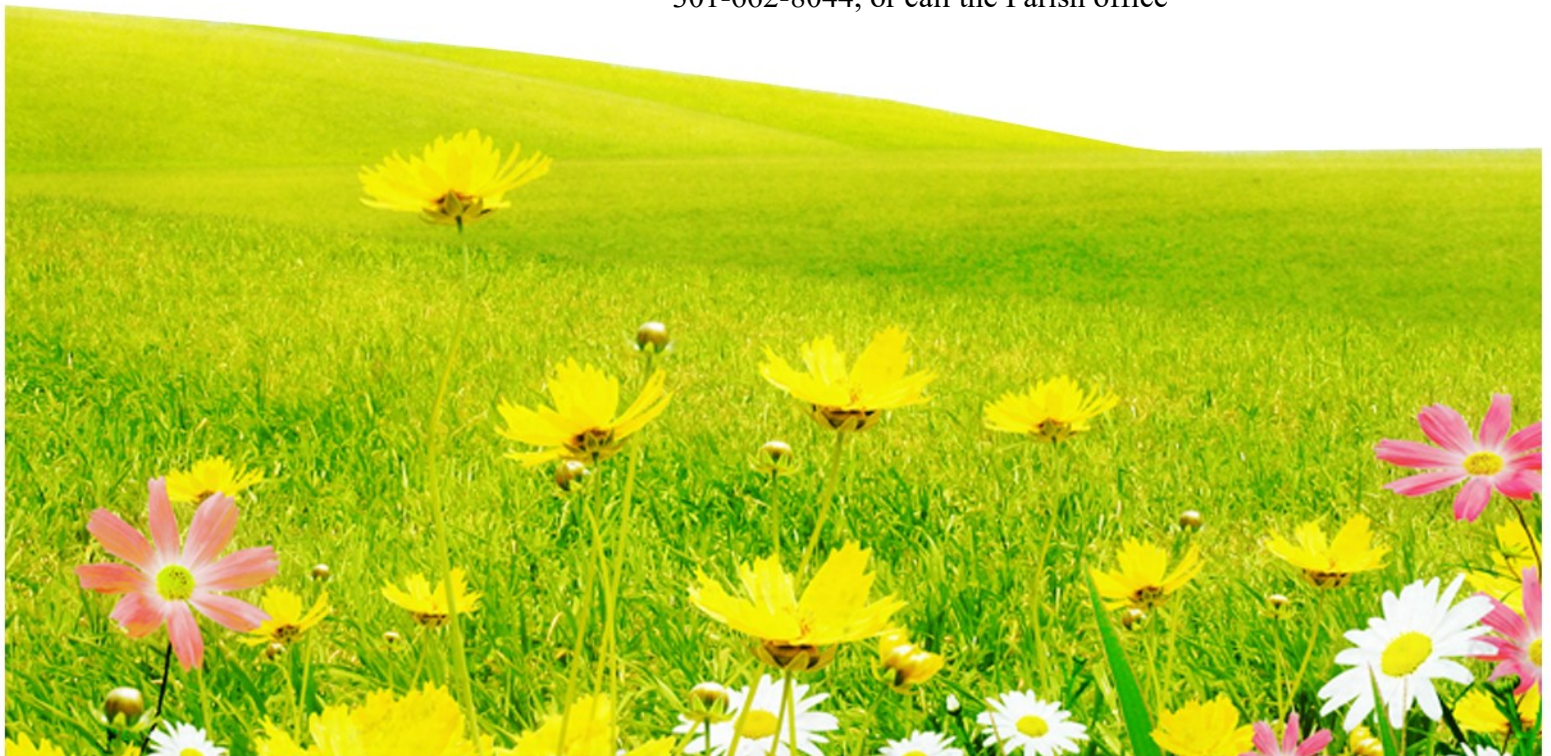
## Strawberry Festival

Plans are underway for this year's Strawberry Festival. 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 Life Committee welcomes all (adults and youth) to participate by volunteering your time/talents for our annual Strawberry Festival on **Saturday, May 20, 2022 from 9 am to 2 pm.** Please mark this event on your calendar and come out to support by giving of your time by volunteering.

Another way you can help out if you're not available on the day of the event, donate funds to help with the costs 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.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](http://www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.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 at 301-662-8044, or call the Parish office



# Pastor's Peace

*<sup>43</sup> Siblings, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14*

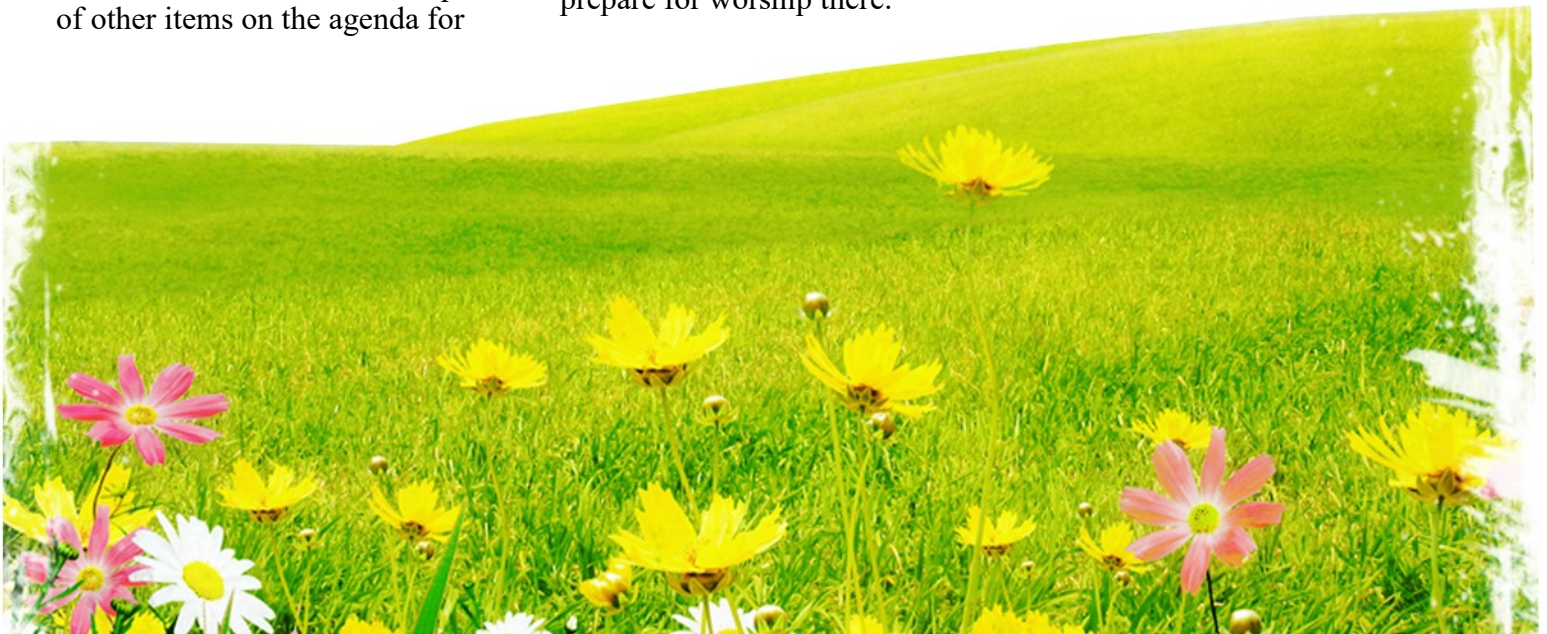
On April 25, 2023, the Covenant between Bethel and St. Paul's was presented to the St. Paul's Council for review and comment. After some discussion, those in attendance unanimously approved the Covenant to be referred to the Congregation for its review and hopeful approval. The folks who were not in attendance at the Council meeting also approved the Covenant for referral to the Congregation. The Synod office has also approved the Covenant between the churches and it can now be brought before each congregation for a vote. As we have done for our Annual Congregational Meeting, we will sponsor a "town hall" meeting before the Special Congregational meeting so as to answer any questions posed and aid members in understanding the process and how we move forward. There will be a couple of other items on the agenda for

the Special Congregational Meeting, one of which is to explore the possibility of Sue and I moving into the Parsonage once Belinda and her family have moved on. We will be seeking your approval for this to occur sometime in the fall. This move will allow me to be more accessible to this church community and to Bethel as well. Should you have questions about this potential move, please do not hesitate to see me for my thoughts. At this time, we anticipate the Town Hall Meeting being scheduled for June 4, 2023, immediately following worship with the Special Congregational Meeting being scheduled for June 18, 2023, immediately following worship.

There will not be much change in the way we do business at St. Paul's once we ratify the Covenant and move forward down that path. However, this partnership will necessitate a change in worship time for both congregations so as to allow me time to meet with members of St. Paul's following worship, to participate in Ministry Sunday, and time to travel to Bethel to prepare for worship there.

The change in time is not that radical as we will suggest worship at St. Paul's be moved to 9am and worship at Bethel will be moved to 11:15am. Additionally, it has been proposed that on days in which I have vacation, worship will alternate between St. Paul's and Bethel to accommodate the shortage of supply pastors. Please do not hesitate to speak with me or any of your council members with questions you might have leading up to these minor changes. This is an exciting time for each congregation as we grow together to serve as Christ in our community.

I am thankful for Lauren McCloskey and her willingness to step into the role of shepherding our vacation bible school this summer. Please seek out Lauren if you can assist in any way. As of this writing, VBS is scheduled for June 26-29, 2023, and further details will be provided.



# Pastor's Peace cont'd

There's a peace I've come to know  
Though my heart and flesh may fail  
There's an anchor for my soul  
I can say "It is well"

And I will rise when He calls my name  
No more sorrow, no more pain  
I will rise on eagle's wings  
Before my God fall on my knees. And rise I will rise.

*Chris Tomlin I Will Rise lyrics © Capitol CMG Publishing, Warner Chappell Music, Inc*

*"5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6*

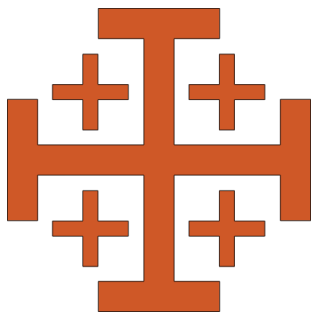
Peace IS with you!

Peace Pastor Phil

Email: [pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org) Cell phone: 202-497-0584

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## ***Journey to the Holy Land***



Journey to the Holy Land with the Delaware-Maryland Synod January 29-February 8, 2024. As we continue to walk through the Easter season, imagine yourself visiting the places where so many stories from the Bible have traditionally been remembered. Travel with your siblings from our synod and share the experience of reflection, prayer and adventure. This tour price includes airfare, hotels, ground transportation and three meals a day. For more information, talk to Pastor Kati Kluckman-Ault at our synod assembly, contact Pastor Kati [by email](#), or view the [trip webpage](#).



# Council Corner

## \*\*\**IMPORTANT INFORMATION*\*\*\*

St. Paul's Council is calling a Special Congregational Meeting to be held June 18th, immediately following service for the purpose of voting on 3 items.

1. Approval of the joint ministry with Bethel
2. Approval of necessary funds to update the Parsonage after it is vacant-inside and the garage roof
3. Approval of use of the parsonage for Pastor Phil and Sue to move into after renovations.

Prior to this Special Congregational Meeting we will hold a Town Hall to discuss these motions on June 4th immediately following service.

We will post/distribute more about these 3 items in detail through the weekly email and at the usher stations with the bulletins.

PLEASE do not hesitate to ask Pastor, Trish or ANY council member about these items. We, your council, are continuing to strive to steward our congregation by following our mission statement -- 'Through Christ, we joyfully feed the body, mind and spirit of all.'

Part of that includes our own personal calling to be open and available for communication. Talk to us, ask us questions! Our calling as a council is to shepherd our congregation to follow God's teaching and walk in Jesus' path.

Peace and Grace  
Your Council

*“Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so, some people have shown hospitality to angels without even knowing it.”*

—Hebrews 13:1,2

## Upcoming Events

- **May 7th—Ministry Sunday**
- **May 14th — Mother's Day**
- **May 20th— Strawberry Festival**
- **May 29th— Memorial Day**
- **June 4th— Town Hall**
- **June 11th—Youth Sunday**
- **June 18th—Special Congregational Meeting**





### June 11th is a BIG Sunday!!

It is Youth Sunday and Belinda's last day as our Youth and Family Coordinator. Please make sure to join us for worship and stay for our chat/social afterward. Belinda has held this position for over 20 years, make some time to come thank her for gifts and talents!



### Strawberry shortcake bakers!!

**\*\*\*Important\*\*\*** We need a few more people to bake cakes for the Strawberry Short Cake tent! They will be available for pick up in the church or in the Parish Office between 9am and 1pm. Please make sure when you take a pan, you put your name on the sign up sheet!

Please deliver cakes to the social hall kitchen on Wednesday, May 17th from 5-8 pm, Thursday the 18th from, 9 am to 4 pm, or text Betsy for questions. Thank you all!!



We will be receiving baked goods for the Strawberry Festival on Friday, May 19th at the Parish Hall during business hours 9am—1pm and between 4pm and 6pm. Sign up Sheets are in the Church and the Parish Hall. We will have yellow printed sheets for ingredient listing available at drop off for folks to fill in. Please contact Marie through the Parish Office.

## May Birthdays

- May 3<sup>rd</sup> Keith Horton  
Luke Zeller
- May 4<sup>th</sup> Kay Wachter
- May 5<sup>th</sup> Lauren Johnson
- May 12<sup>th</sup> Thomas Kutz
- May 20<sup>th</sup> Connie Chesnik
- May 21<sup>st</sup> Marie Purswell  
J.T. Valcarcel
- May 22<sup>nd</sup> Jeff King
- May 24<sup>th</sup> Milton Denn
- May 27<sup>th</sup> Cassandra King  
Noah King
- May 28<sup>th</sup> Ellen Bucheimer
- May 29<sup>th</sup> Brenda Bruning  
Dustin Burris
- May 30<sup>th</sup> Troy Keeney  
Linda Yopp



# 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. Earlier this year, 2 dozen quilts were donated to Children of Incarcerated Parents.

**Quilt Blessing Update**—During the Service on Sunday, April 23, 50 twin size quilts were Blessed. Six of these, women’s quilts, answered a request from Faith House, a Frederick facility for women with children. Twenty children’s quilts went to Heartly House, a domestic abuse shelter. In June, a total of 30 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. A representative will visit us for a Sunday Service and give a presentation about their mission.

**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 Stottlemyer 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. *At this time, we especially need cash donations.*

*“Father and Mother are apostles, bishops and priests to their children, for it is they who make them acquainted with the gospel.”*

*—Martin Luther*

