

# Epistle



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | JUNE 2023  
301-845-4600 | [Saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](http://Saintpaulslutheranchurch.org)

## IMPORTANT - SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**JUNE 18, 2023**

Three items will be brought to the congregation for consideration and vote:

1. Entering into a shared ministry covenant with Bethel Lutheran Church.
2. Pastor Beck and Sue would like to move into the parsonage after the Burriss' move out. (with some renovations to be completed by Russ and Thomas)
3. Parsonage Garage asbestos roof to be replaced (bids will be provided.)

**Prior to the June 18th vote a Town Hall meeting to discuss and ask questions will be held on June 4th.**

*“Start by doing what’s necessary;  
then do what’s possible,  
and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”*

—St. Francis of Assisi

## June Birthdays

June 3<sup>rd</sup> -Alexis Bush

June 7<sup>th</sup> -Billie Jo Kahler

June 11<sup>th</sup> -Annabelle Bush  
Dennis Cavell

June 13<sup>th</sup> -Sophie Myer

June 16<sup>th</sup> -Charles Covell

June 17<sup>th</sup> -John Fradiska, Jr.

June 18<sup>th</sup> -Donna Seaton

June 22<sup>nd</sup> -Shirley Eyer  
Edward Sell II

June 23<sup>rd</sup> -Susan Hayes  
Mary Ann King

June 24<sup>th</sup> -Belinda Burris

# From the Worship & Arts Committee

As we continue to change and evolve as a church, I am sure you have noticed that we have started passing the plate at worship services since Easter.

In resuming passing the plate as part of our service, we are reminded that by giving we are trusting and thanking God who meets our needs and makes us all aware of the needs of others.

Just as we receive the body and blood of Christ each week at service, we need to thank and trust God by giving. Even if we are not physically putting money on the plate, it reminds us of the reason that we tithe.

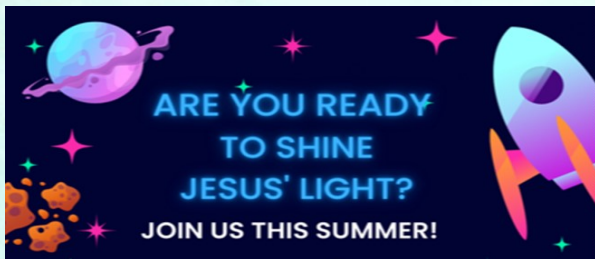
We have been blessed to be a blessing!

Our continued THANK YOU for giving has held us together as a church. The benefits your generosity has enabled in our community during such an unprecedented time have been incredible.

1 Corinthians 16:14  
*“Everything should be done in love”*

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

## Summer VBS



Please join Lauren McCloskey and Saint Paul's from Monday June, 26th thru Thursday, June 29th from 6-8pm for a Stellar Summer Session of VBS. See the bulletins and weekly emails for the flyer with sign up information or call the Parish Office to reserve your spot!

*“The Bible is a remarkable fountain; the more one draws and drinks from it, the more it stimulates thirst.”*

—Martin Luther



**NO KID SLEEPS  
ON THE FLOOR  
IN OUR TOWN!**

## Sleep in Heavenly Peace

“All children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads....too many boys and girls go without a bed — or even a pillow — to sleep on. These children end up sleeping on couches, blankets, and even floors. This can affect their happiness and health. That’s where Sleep in Heavenly Peace comes in. They are a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling and delivering top notch bunk beds to children and families in need.” St. Paul’s Kate Stottlemeyer and the Quilt Ministry, hand make quilts all year long and have donated some of them to SHP. Please join us in worship on June 4th, where we will welcome Karl Rathvon, Volunteer Coordinator of the Frederick, Maryland chapter of SHP. He will be our Generosity Speaks guest speaker who will give us some insight and information regarding SHP in our town and will accept the latest batch of quilts donated by our Quilt Ministry.

# Strawberry Festival

The Congregational Life Ministry wishes to thank everyone for their time, donations, and support for the Annual Strawberry Festival which took place on May 20th. A big applause to everyone that setup, prepared, donated, grilled, distributed food, cashiered, potted plants, our sales team and those who helped behind the scenes. We sold out of Strawberries, and there wasn't a hotdog that hadn't been eaten!! Now that is a successful event! We sure were blessed with beautiful weather! We are hoping that everyone had a great time listening to the incredibly talented bands. In the future we need bigger speakers. Thank you WHS Jazz Band and the Home Comfort Band with Dahl Drenning; your performances were fantastic. Thanks to all who baked the strawberry shortcakes and/or baked delicious items for the bake table and to those who donated plants for the plant sale. It was a wonderful day as we engaged with our community and through Christ, we joyfully fed the body, mind and spirit of all.

We will be asking everyone involved or those that just came by to eat shortcake, to let us know what they thought went well, and what might have made it a better event. Please take the time to fill out the 2023 Strawberry Festival Feedback form. You can find it in the weekly emails through June, in the bulletins through June as well, or on the lector tables in church. Thanks to all who volunteered their time to this community tradition, we couldn't have pulled this festival off without you! Only together in Christ's faith and love can we continue to host the famous St. Paul's ELCA Walkersville Strawberry Festival.

Marcia Gupta  
Congregational Life



# Pastor's Peace

*"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" Psalm 133:1*

What a wonderful day we had on May 20, 2023, with our Annual Strawberry Festival. We were extremely fortunate to have been blessed with a lovely performance by the Walkersville High School Jazz Band which drew and kept a large crowd at our gathering. Thank you to Belinda and Delanie for making this event a reality. This event is certainly a way in which we share and live out our Mission Statement of "through Christ, we joyfully feed the body, mind, and spirit of all." Many different hands came together to prepare baked goods, plants of many varieties were donated, and we were able to share in fellowship throughout the day. We even had a blessing of the wheeled things where kids on scooters, bikes, a stroller, and even a big kid on a motorcycle joined us to pray for safety and health during the upcoming year. Members came together to get tents, tables, chairs and other logistical items set up and I believe the big tent was a plus this year. I am holding out hope for the dunk tank next year.:

We are coming to a significant change in our time together at St. Paul's. On June 11, 2023, we will honor our graduating youth for their time here and we will bid farewell and Godspeed to Belinda and her family as they seek new opportunities in their lives. I can say with certainty, there will be a huge hole here at St. Paul's as Belinda ends her tenure as the Youth and Family Coordinator. It was often Belinda who challenged me and pushed me out of my comfort zone to try new things, as well as to see things from a different perspective. I am grateful for her partnership over the last three and a half years and pray the Holy Spirit guides her to all she is seeking. Change is important and healthy in each of our lives where change promotes learning and growth. Change sometimes leads to uncertainty yet being in fellowship with each other is the means by which we welcome the Holy Spirit to guide us beside the still waters.



## Pastor's Peace cont'd

This is the time in which we come together as one and promote one another with the love and caring God has blessed us with in the gift of the Holy Spirit. We have been chosen as children of God, we are created in the image of God, and we are invited to share God with everyone we encounter. This is not always easy as we often feel things could be done differently, and perhaps they might. However, it is up to us to forgive, to listen, to hear, to love, and begin anew in following the example set for us by Jesus. We often don't know what may be going on in someone's life, so be kind without expecting anything in return. I am looking forward to the challenges ahead of us, that we continue our labors of love, and we move together as a force of Christ in our community. Share the peace of Christ, share the Good News that Christ is Risen, share your lives with everyone to promote and acknowledge the gifts you have been given. Be Christ in the world!

"Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good."  
Romans 12:17-21

Peace IS with you!

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Vintage Quilt Raffle Update:



The winner of the vintage quilt raffled at the Strawberry Festival is...

***Andrea Horine.***

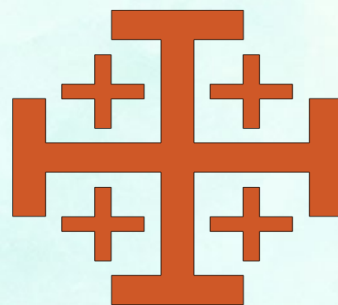
Ms. Horine gave a donation for 12 tickets and is absolutely delighted with the quilt!



While we prepare for ***Ministry Sunday on June 4th***, please note that because of the special Town Hall Meeting directly after Service on June 4th, Ministry meetings have been left to the decision of each individual ministry

## 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](#).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 4<sup>th</sup> - Special Town Hall Meeting

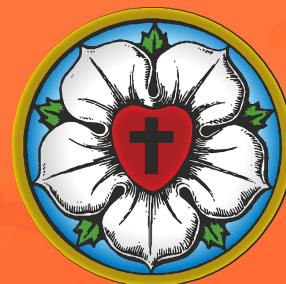
June 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> - Synod Assembly

June 18<sup>th</sup> - Father's Day  
Special Congregational Vote

June 26<sup>th</sup> - VBS Begins

*God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does.*

—Martin Luther



**Treasurer's Report**  
**INCOME & EXPENSES FOR APRIL 2023**

CURRENT FUND		PROPERTY RENOVATION LOAN FUND	
04/02 Offering	\$ 5,899.52	04/02 Offering	\$ 765.00
04/09 Offering	\$ 2,299.47	04/09 Offering	\$ 270.00
04/16 Offering	\$ 3,036.41	04/16 Offering	\$ 490.00
04/23 Offering	\$ 1,287.30	04/23 Offering	\$ 220.00
04/30 Offering	\$ 1,843.91	04/30 Offering	\$ 365.00
<b>Total Offerings</b>	<b>\$ 14,366.61</b>	<b>Total Offerings</b>	<b>\$ 2,110.00</b>
Expenses	\$ (19,800.07)	Loan Payment	\$ (1,522.71)
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ (5,433.46)</b>	<b>Surplus for 4/30/23</b>	<b>\$ 587.29</b>
Other Income:			
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 194.00		
Misc	\$ -		
Rental Income	\$ 3,800.00		
Lent	\$ 120.00		
Easter	\$ 150.00		
<b>Deficit for 4/30/23</b>	<b>\$ (1,169.46)</b>		

**YEAR-TO-DATE INFORMATION FROM 01/01/23 TO 04/30/23**

CURRENT FUND		PROPERTY RENOVATION LOAN FUND	
Weekly Offerings	\$ 46,217.35	Offerings	\$ 7,495.00
Lent	\$ 859.00	Principle Reduction	\$ -
Easter	\$ 150.00	Interest	\$ 0.42
Interest/Dividend	\$ 577.50	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 7,495.42</b>
Rental	\$ 8,450.00		
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 834.00	Loan Payments	\$ (6,090.84)
Amazon Smile Program	\$ 134.76		
Misc	\$ 0.42		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 57,223.03</b>		
Less Operating Expenses	\$ (70,651.67)		
<b>Current Fund</b>		<b>Property Renov Loan Fund</b>	
<b>Deficit thru 4/30/23</b>	<b>\$ (13,428.64)</b>	<b>Surplus thru 4/30/23</b>	<b>\$ 1,404.58</b>
		Balances owed on:	
		Mortgage as of 4/2023	\$ 142,408.08