



Epistle *October*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SAINT PAULS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | OCTOBER 2023

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Harvest Home Sunday, October 8th

An annual tradition in our congregation is to celebrate the harvest by returning a portion of God's gifts to be distributed to others in need. ***On Sunday October 8th***, please bring non-perishable food items to the church. We will be collecting those items at the communion rail. After service they will be counted and taken to the Glade Valley Food Bank. Check the Wednesday newsletter and bulletins for current Food Bank needs.

It's also pumpkin Sunday! Please pick up a pumpkin to enjoy at home, on your way out after worship

October Birthdays

- Oct. 2nd - Tyler Barrett
- Oct. 3rd - Stephen King
- Oct. 10th - Paul Kiever
- Oct. 18th - Sloane Donati
- Oct. 20th - Doug Campagnoli
Gary Wachter
- Oct. 23rd - Morgan Howell
- Oct. 25th - Darlene Kiever
- Oct. 26th - Marcia Gupta
- Oct. 27th - Anthony Jack
- Oct. 29th - Ashley Sube
Rebecca Sube
- Oct. 30th - Regina Cavell
Marilyn Gupta



*"Dont judge each day by the harvest
you reap, but by the seeds that you
plant"*

— Robert Louis Stevenson

TRUNK OR TREAT

It's Almost Time!

And that means it's almost time for another fun evening of Trunk-or-Treat!

Saturday, **October 28th** at 6:00pm St. Paul's youth will be hosting a Trunk-or-Treat night. *We could use some more volunteers to decorate their trunks and hand out candy. See the sign up sheet!*

If you have never done it before, it's easy and fun and we'd love to help you get started! Please contact Lauren McCloskey to reserve a spot and help St. Paul's reach out to our neighbors and community with a little fun!

It's Spooky Season!

and that means time for St. Paul's Annual Trunk or Treat hosted by our Youth! Come Join us!



Blessing of the Pets



BLESSING OF THE PETS

Saint Paul's announces that there will be a blessing of the pets **October 22, 2023**, at 1:00 pm (14 W. Pennsylvania Avenue). Everyone is invited to bring pets (or pictures of pets) for the blessing.

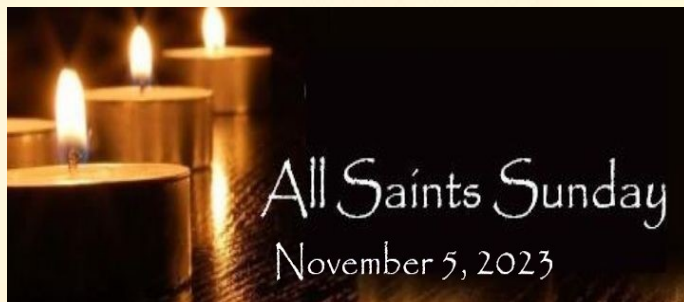
All Saints Sunday resonates with the conviction that in Christ every saint is a sinner and every sinner a saint. Lutherans especially remember on this feast that it is God's grace that makes us saints. We find lasting rest only in the mercy of God.

At St. Paul's we follow a tradition of honoring all the saints who have passed away since last All Saints Day. We will light a candle and ring the bell for each person named.

Please call the Parish Office or email @ Officeadministrator@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org to name the person you would like to remember in this way throughout the month of October. Please give the name, relationship to you and date of death. We will need these names by 10/30/2023.

Please address any questions to the Worship and Arts Committee.

Betsy Galliher

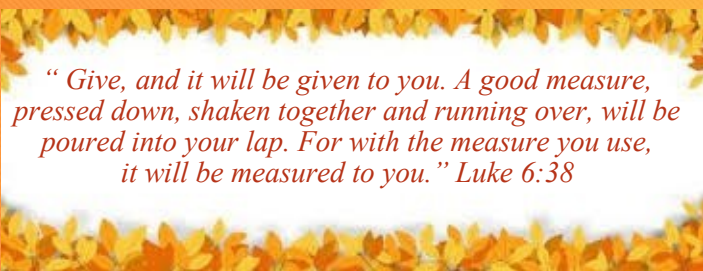


Pastor's Peace

“Generosity is the virtue of being liberal in giving, often as gifts. Generosity is regarded as a virtue by various world religions and philosophies and is often celebrated in cultural and religious ceremonies. Generosity often encompasses acts of charity, in which people give without expecting anything in return. This can involve offering time, assets, or talents to assist those in need, such as during natural disasters, where people voluntarily contribute resources, goods, and money. The impact of generosity is most profound when it arises spontaneously rather than being directed by an organization. People can experience joy and satisfaction when they positively affect someone’s life through acts of generosity.” Wikipedia.

The members of St. Paul’s have always found ways in which to share their generosity, whether by volunteering at the Soup Kitchen, the Thrift Shop, Victoria Park, Autumn Lake or when we make an appeal to repair items such as our stained glass. When I searched for the definition of generosity, I was struck by the one line in the Wikipedia platform, “the impact of generosity is most profound when it arises spontaneously rather than being directed by an organization.” It is one thing for me or our church leadership to come to worship on Sunday and ask for members to volunteer for one thing or the other, to give a bit of your time and resources to further the good things we are doing here in our community, but it is far better for each of us to do so without being asked.

I was often heard in my previous job saying “see the problem fix the problem” which was a way to empower even the newest officer to make their area of operation better by creating change for the better without having to continually point out what needed to be done. There are so many ways in which each of us can live a life of generosity in our community without first having to wait for someone to ask that it be done. A couple of weeks ago we heard the parable of the laborers in the vineyard. There were some who worked a full day and others who worked less because of their various strengths or weaknesses, but all worked and were blessed with a fair wage at the end of their day. We don’t work or give generously because it will guarantee a place for us in heaven or that somehow we will get salvation because we have toiled for whatever hours, we work because it brings joy to our hearts and allows us to love our neighbor equally and without reservation.



Pastor's Peace cont'd

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The leadership at St. Paul’s carefully evaluates the needs and desires of this congregation to set priorities in how to utilize the funds entrusted to their care and are consistently seeking ways to meet the everchanging necessities of parish life. We have undergone some change in our congregation with our youth director departing, but we still have committed volunteers to further our goals of feeding the body, mind, and spirit of all, especially our children. We can still use your assistance, whether it is for the full days labor or even an hour once a month so that we can extend our programs to meet the needs of our community.

I believe a lot of us get overwhelmed when we are consistently asked to support a variety of things over the life of our time together. According to our Treasurer, we continue to see steady giving of financial resources, yet with increased expenses, we are struggling to remain able to overcome the deficit we have incurred. Past gifts have permitted us to overcome this adversity at the end of the year, but at some point, those gifts will cease to exist. Is there are way you can be that spontaneous source of generosity by giving of yourself or your resources to further our love of neighbor?

Where is it that you will discern the ability able to spark the spontaneity of generosity? Will you step up to volunteer, will you see the problem and offer to fix the problem? There are many opportunities to do so and we are exploring new ways to be church in our community, will you be the catalyst that propels us to serving, giving, and loving?

“ But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work..”
2 Corinthians 9:6-8

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



Come Join us!



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A PROGRAM AT THE ST. PAUL'S PARISH HALL SPONSORED BY OUR "CARING FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST" HEALTH MINISTRY

DATE: Friday, October 13, 2023
TIME: 3pm-4pm
SPEAKER: BETH MATTHEWS

ALL ARE INVITED TO HEAR THIS INFORMATIVE PROGRAM, QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD WILL FOLLOW THE PRESENTATION.

Oasis Senior Advisors offers a free presentation on navigating senior care to local civic groups, community organizations, churches and the community at large. Topics include:

- Care, costs and differences between assisted living and nursing homes
- Medicare and Medicaid: what they cover and what they don't cover for senior care
- Payor resources: long-term care insurance, Veteran's Aid and Attendance benefit, Bridge loans, and more
- Tips for better conversations with seniors regarding care needs

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christkindl
— M A R K E T —

SAVE THE DATE
CHRISTKINDLMARKET 2023

We are beginning preparations for the 6th annual Christkindlmarket. It will happen on **Saturday, December 2nd** from 10am-3pm. Once again, the Walkersville Historical Society will be the event host. St. Paul's will have vendors, food and host the Wreath contest similar to last year. Look for more information on those items as we get closer to the date.

Vendors wanted. The Christkindlmarket committee is taking applications for vendors at this year's festivities. If you are interested go to the committee website for all the information and application process. <https://www.walkersvillechristkindlmarket.com/>



We will be looking for donations of gently used Christmas items for "Mrs. Claus' attic." These are items that are affordable for children or individuals without a lot of funds to buy as gifts or decoration. So keep on the lookout if you hit up the local yard sales. If anyone has a good idea for a craft to do as a small group that we can add to the sale let us know. We will be looking for volunteers to help with the different areas so make sure you mark it on your calendars.

RE•FORMATION
THEN • NOW • ALWAYS

"Reformation Sunday challenges us to do better.

Through re-telling our story and returning to the core of our faith, Reformation Sunday prods us to do better.

We are called to be more loving and grace-filled, because God was gracious and merciful to us. We are called to repent of the times that we have placed barriers that have kept others from hearing the Good News. We are called to remember that all that we are is a gift from God.

In the church in Wittenberg where Martin Luther preached, there is a wonderful painting. In it Luther stands in the pulpit on the right hand side, and the people stand on the left. In between people and the preacher is Christ on the cross. Reformation Sunday is a reminder that this is the bedrock of our faith – the grace and mercy given to us in Jesus Christ. Keeping the most important thing in the center of the picture is the only hope for our faith and for this community that we call "church."

Happy Reformation Sunday!"

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Upcoming Events

- Oct. 1st - Ministry Sunday
- Oct. 8th - Harvest Home Sunday
- Oct. 13th - Navigating Senior Care Parish Hall 3pm-4pm
- Oct. 22nd - Blessing of the Pets
- Oct. 28th - Trunk or Treat 6:00pm
- Oct. 29th - Reformation Sunday

