



# Epistle

## January

### 2024

January 2024 | Monthly Newsletter of Saint Paul's Lutheran Church | 19 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Walkersville, MD 21793  
301-845-4600 [www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](http://www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org)

## TOWN HALL/ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

As we look ahead at our January Calendar, your Council Leadership wanted to highlight a couple of events for January...

As is always the case, January brings our annual Congregational meeting, which will be held immediately following the service on January 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.

We have our annual budget to review and vote on, as well as our new council members.

Because we had such success with our Town Hall meeting prior to our last Annual Meeting, we decided to continue again this year. January 21<sup>st</sup> immediately following service we will allow for a 30-40 min Town Hall Q & A for the purpose of asking any budget or other questions. The Town Hall meeting will **NOT** include any voting, just questions. This will help to expedite the process during the voting at the Annual Meeting.

Our target date for sending out the 2024 Proposed Expense Budgets is January 16<sup>th</sup>, so be on the look out!

We will look forward to seeing you!

**Mark your calendars!!**

**1/21/24 Town Hall**  
**1/28/24 Annual Meeting**

## January Birthdays

<b>Daniel Carroll</b>	<b>January 2</b>
<b>Harold Lutz</b>	<b>January 4</b>
<b>Dorothy Fogle</b>	<b>January 8</b>
<b>Katie Walker</b>	<b>January 13</b>
<b>Drew McLane</b>	<b>January 16</b>
<b>Bennett Chesnik</b>	<b>January 17</b>
<b>Kayla Plowman</b>	<b>January 17</b>
<b>Helen Lynch</b>	<b>January 20</b>
<b>Ed Chaney</b>	<b>January 20</b>
<b>Lillian Foucart</b>	<b>January 21</b>
<b>Ella Ramacciotti</b>	<b>January 21</b>
<b>Donna Warner</b>	<b>January 25</b>
<b>Robb Port</b>	<b>January 29</b>

*"May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting followers of Christ Jesus." — Romans 15:5*

# A New Year, Same God!



As we usher in 2024, we can't help but feel grateful and reflect on everything that has happened in the past year; the good and the not so good. Take a moment and count the blessings that have stacked up in the in the past 12 months. They make us hopeful for what's to come. 12 Chronicles 15:7 reads: "But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded." God doesn't adapt to the times. The Word doesn't change! It's a new year, but it's the same God! Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."



# Bread is Coming Back!

The Worship and Arts Committee has voted to reinstitute bread at communion, starting with the Lenten season. We'll need members of the congregation to volunteer to provide bread on a weekly basis. Bread used will be white only, unsliced/ unbroken, fresh baked or purchased, no nuts or seeds please, and a soft crust rather than hard, please, to lessen the crumbs that fall.

Please contact Candy Foucart at [cafoucart@yahoo.com](mailto:cafoucart@yahoo.com) if you're interested and she will get back to you with possible dates. If there are any questions please ask Candy or any member of the Worship and Arts Committee.

If no bread is available on a Sunday we will use the wafers.

Thanks for your commitment to St. Paul's!  
*Candy Foucart,*  
*Communion Coordinator*



## 2023 Christkindlemarket Wreath Contest Results

We want to thank all the businesses that submitted wreaths for the 2nd annual Wreath Contest. All the entries were amazing. We had 135 votes cast during the event. The Historical Society came out on top with 62 winning votes. Their charity of choice, the Walkersville High School Band, will receive \$227 from the victory. We look forward to next year and even more local businesses participating.



1. Carroll and Ferguson 2. Walkersville Historical Society 3. Hercules Custom Iron 4. Abloom

# Pastor's Peace

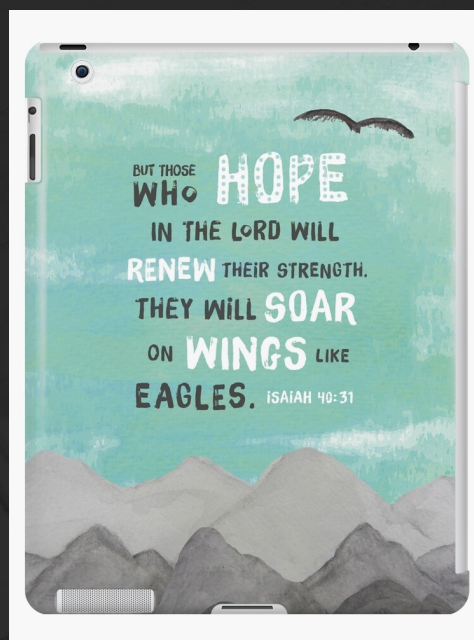
*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead," 1 Peter 1:3*

During this past year we experienced many things, joy, sadness, excitement, trepidation, and most of all we experienced a new beginning with Bethel Lutheran Church. Our partnership together has benefited each congregation in the realization of financial stability, joint worship, ecumenical partnerships, and other dreams we have for the future. As part of our agreement together there will be times when I take some time off and the two congregations will share worship in each other's sanctuaries. Thus far, Bethel has worshipped at St. Paul's on a few occasions and will continue to do so. Yet in the spirit of our agreement, St. Paul's will also worship at Bethel for various times and events throughout the church year. The opportunities to worship in each other's sanctuaries provides members from both churches the ability to worship at different times on a particular Sunday and other moments where you would find it more convenient.

During the Season of Lent, Bethel will share a meal and worship with us on our Journey to the Cross each Wednesday night. As usual the soup and sandwich meal will begin at 6pm with worship beginning at 7pm. The First Sunday of Lent (February 18, 2024) will see me taking a few days off for some R&R with high school friends. The Sunday worship for this day will be at Bethel at 11:15am with a supply pastor and much as we have embraced the members of Bethel in joining us at St. Paul's, it would be tremendous to share the same cordiality with them in their worship space. Other than February 18, 2024, this will be the only Sunday during Lent that we share a worship service. However, we will have some time to share each other's company during Holy Week with a Service of Healing on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at St. Paul's. We will also strip the altar at St. Paul's at the conclusion of the service. On Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024, we will worship together at Bethel at 7pm. Bethel is also contemplating a simple meal before worship of which plans are still being made.

Good Friday will offer opportunities to worship in both spaces with a service at Noon at Bethel and a service at 7pm at St. Paul's. Similarly, Easter Worship will be in both places at our normal times. I am considering a Sunrise Service on the lawn, and I am told we may have a return to our Easter Breakfast.

While we have been active in a variety of ministries in which we have shared meals with members of our community, Roxanne Smith is trying to live out our Mission Statement of "Through Christ we joyfully feed the body, mind and spirit of all" by partnering with Woodsboro Lutheran Church in supplementing their



## Pastor's Peace cont'd

monthly community meal with a meal that we at St. Paul's and Bethel can come together and sponsor. Roxanne will be a trial run for this on January 20, 2024, at Woodsboro Lutheran and she is seeking volunteers to assist in this endeavor. This is a way for us to give back to our community and to seek out those on the margins who are struggling to make ends meet. Please search your heart for ways in which you can be involved. If we have enough volunteers, it would not be a monthly commitment, but would be more spaced out and less time consuming.

As always we will be gearing up for our Annual Strawberry Festival which will be upon us before we know it. One of the items of feedback we received last year was that people missed the yard sale. We are thankful for all the work Belinda put into this endeavor and I'm sure if we had someone interested in restarting this portion of our day, we would certainly benefit. Please see if there is a way you could be involved and if you aren't sure about what you can do, ask a member of any of our ministry groups and they will be happy to point you in the right direction. Be a part of our new beginnings and let your heart be filled with the Holy Spirit where we all benefit from the HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE of Christ in our lives.

*But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31*

Should you have any questions or concerns, I am glad to speak with you at any time.

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- On behalf of Bethel Lutheran Church, Pastor Phil would like to invite you to his Installation Service at Bethel Lutheran Church, 9664 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick, MD 21702 on **January 14, 2024 at 2:00pm**. Let us rejoice that the Lord has brought our congregations together and we are looking forward to celebrating this occasion as the family of God.
- Would you like to schedule a date to sponsor Altar flowers? Please contact Patty Rimel through the Parish Office if you would like to arrange a date along with your dedication. You may also use the forms on the bulletin board at the side entrance.
- REMINDER: The prayer list will start over after January 1<sup>st</sup>, so if there is anyone you wish to remain on the 2024 list, please email or call the office. Thank you.
- January 20th will be our next Health Ministry Event. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details!
- Want to know more about what's going on in the Lutheran Church? Check out [ELCA.org](http://ELCA.org). You can find the latest news and events, ELCA blogs that keep up with the latest news from ministries, tons of Resources and you can learn more about the ELCA presiding Bishop Eaton.

## Upcoming Schedule for Lenten Worship:

- Our Lenten Journey will be a series entitled "**Guided to the Cross**" which we will follow each Wednesday during Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday.

**Ash Wednesday** (February 14, 2024) will be at St. Paul's at 7pm

**Lenten Wednesday worship** will be at St. Paul's at 7pm with soup and sandwich preceding at 6pm

**Sunday February 18, 2024** at 11:15am - worship will be at Bethel with Pastor being out of town

### Holy Week

**Wednesday** - St Paul's 7pm (Soup and sandwich at 6pm) (A service of Healing and stripping of the altar)

**Maundy Thursday** - 7pm at Bethel (Bethel is contemplating a meal beforehand)

**Good Friday** - Noon at Bethel and 7pm at St. Paul's

**Easter Sunday** - 9am at St. Paul's, 11:15am at Bethel

# UPCOMING EVENTS

January 21<sup>st</sup>

Town Hall Meeting

January 28<sup>th</sup>

Annual Congregational Meeting 10:00am

## Super Bowl Can Drive

Now through February 11<sup>th</sup>, bring in soup cans for the food bank.

Can we beat our score from last year? YOU ARE HEREBY CHALLENGED!!

## Ash Wednesday

Mark your calendar, February 14<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of our Lenten Season.

