

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 13	Regina Baker
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

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



Strawberry Festival

It is almost spring and the continuous love of Jesus shines through Easter and always. It is the time to bring people together and show that the love of our Lord can be shown in joyous fun and through celebration. It is now time to plan for our annual Strawberry Festival on May 18, 2024 from 9am to 2pm. We have been able to provide this event for more than 30 years, only because of the loving volunteers of St. Paul's members, family and friends. It's such a stable of Walkersville Days that people from all over search for our festivities. After numerous requests from patrons, we are bringing back the yard sale. It is time to declutter. We are also continuing live music and distributing free hotdogs, chips, and water. We are looking for fun new ideas from anyone in our church community. Please let the Congregational Life Ministry know how you can help.

There are hundreds of ways including donating bake goods, shortcakes, and plants, set up, clean up, helping in booths, cashiering, food distribution, and spreading the news by word of mouth invitations. You can lend your support by coming and just celebrating. We definitely need members to welcome visitors, and invite them to church services.

Please think about sharing the gifts God has given you to make our Strawberry Festivals the best it can be. Sign up sheets and meeting dates will be available. I will be very happy to talk to you about ideas and questions you may have. **We need your help.** God's blessing always, Marcia Gupta

*"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen."
Hebrew 11:1*

PASTOR'S PEACE

"Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.." Romans 6:4

He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! What a glorious way to end our Lenten Journey to the Cross as we come together and celebrate one of the greatest mysteries of our faith. We are gladdened by the fact we have been given the gift of Christ in our lives and all is well with our souls. As I write this, we are entering Holy Week and have just experienced a great procession of our youth and our choir into the church waving their palms, singing Hosanna and sporting glad faces as they ushered us in to the week where we experience a variety of emotions. It was truly a heart inspiring moment with a worship space filled with over 80 faithful in person and almost 30 joining us online to continue our walk to the cross, the place we find Jesus. Nothing brings more joy to my heart than experiencing the vibrancy of our congregation when we come together as witnesses to the greatness of God, and even more so when I get hugs from our little ones as they head off with Ms. April to talk about the Easter donkey.

This Lenten Journey also gives us pause to ponder what is in store for our church. The pains of the past, including the challenges of pandemic have caused us to question where we stand in our faith life together. Do we continue to do the same things or are we a congregation that can grow, learn, and love our community in new ways. Roxanne Smith has embraced this growth, and with a few dedicated members, has successfully started another meals ministry in partnership with Woodsboro Lutheran Church. We have realized it is a challenge for some of our members and the community to utilize our Social Hall because of the access limitations so we are adapting to this by finding alternative ways to share fellowship within our congregation and in our community. During Lent, we shared a meal in the parish hall before worship and on Friday nights, we gathered at a variety of local establishments to have conversation, share some laughs, and get to know one another outside of church. All of this brings attention to Jesus because we are witnesses to Christ and live this out in our communities. I had a conversation with one of the managers of a restaurant we patronized and they were happy to have our group there as a positive outreach in our ministry. On Easter Sunday we were thankful for the ministry that provided a breakfast before worship. Lutherans love food. When you have good food and great fellowship, the Love of Christ shines through.

"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

Each year our Council and other leaders from our congregation come together for a leadership retreat shortly after our new Council is seated. This year we also included the leadership from Bethel Lutheran Church to join us and learn to grow and love as Christ has taught. This year we were blessed to have Pastor Carla Christopher, assistant to the Bishop for Justice Ministries, lead our discussion and learning. This was an effort to follow up on our Gathered at the Table Series in which we explored the ELCA Social statements. Specifically, Pastor Carla spoke to us about the LGBTQ+ community and how Jesus calls us to love one another even if we don't understand or agree. As in the ELCA Social Statements, we are not necessarily called to agree with one another but we are called to treat each other with love, respect, and caring. The session with Pastor Carla certainly clarified many things for me, and I dare say our leaders who were in attendance. There are still questions to explore and much wisdom to be gathered as we journey to the Cross and journey together in life. Pastor Carla will join us July 14, 2024, to share God's message of love and to have fellowship with us. This is an opportunity for us to explore something different and find ways to embrace all of God's children. We are a community of love and it is the Love of Christ we are called to share.

"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26

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



I hope you all have been enjoying the return of bread to communion. So far the communion preparers have been graciously providing it, but we could use a couple bakers (or buyers) as an alternative some weeks. If you'd be willing to help in this way, please give me your name so I can create a list for when it is needed.

Also, if anyone is moved to help with communion preparation, please let me know so that we can get you trained and on the rotation. With communion happening monthly we could use some new willing helpers!

Candy Foucart, *Communion Coordinator*
cafoucart@yahoo.com

Bakers Needed



Faith Formation Kiddos
learning about Holy Week
with Ms. April and exploring
their understanding of
God's teachings.

What a nice Lesson!

Glade United Church of Christ
Presents

“God So Loved the World”

An Easter Cantata

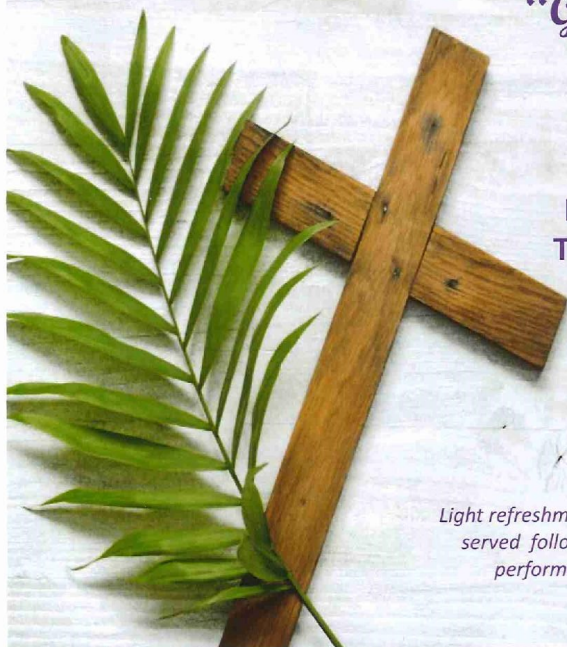
Encore Performance

Featuring The Glade Choir and
The Glade Tower Handbell Choir

Wednesday, April 3rd
7:00 p.m.

*Light refreshments will be
served following the
performance.*

*Glade UCC
21 Fulton Ave
Walkersville, MD*



FREE COMMUNITY DINNERS

Roxanne Smith, with a few dedicated members, has successfully started another meals ministry in partnership with Woodsboro Lutheran Church. We have realized it is a challenge for some of our members and the community to utilize our Social Hall because of the access limitations so we are adapting to this by finding alternative ways to share fellowship within our congregation and in our community. Please see Roxanne at Worship if you'd like to help or you may call or email the Parish Office.



JUNE 7-8, 2024

COME HOME to Mar-Lu-Ridge to celebrate 65 years of mountaintop ministry!

Register for the entire event or come for one day...we are excited to spend time together with old friends and new. Overnight Accommodations are available in the Ridge Inn Conference Center, Cabins, and Lodge 3. Click the link for more information. <https://www.mar-lu-ridge.org/come-home-mlr-65th-anniversary/>



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, 205 twin quilts were sent into the community in Christ's name to warm bodies and spirits.

Quilt Blessing—During the Service later this Spring there will be a blessing of at least 40 twin size quilts.

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.

Upcoming Events

MINISTRY SUNDAY

Join us after Worship on April 7th at 10:00am for our monthly Ministry meetings. Come see what's happening at St. Paul's or come see if there is a ministry you are called to join! We'd love to have you!

St. Paul's Ministry Sunday,
April 7th @ 10:00am

ELCA Campus Ministry Trivia Night

[The Table](#), our Baltimore Lutheran/Episcopal Campus ministry, presents Trivia Night 2024! Trivia Night will be held on Saturday, April 13 from 6-8 p.m. (doors opening at 5:30) at [Epiphany Lutheran Church](#) (4301 Raspe Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21206). You can register as an individual or as a team of eight; \$20 per person includes a taco bar. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. You can learn more and register [online](#).

Strawberry Festival

May 18, 2024

9:00am-2:00pm

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



Delaware-Maryland Synod

APRIL 28, 2024

Celebration
of
Lay Ministry

Carroll Lutheran Village

3:00–6:00 PM

CHECK OUR WEBSITE!

- ⇒ WWW.DEMDSYNOD.ORG
- ⇒ CONNECTEDNESS
- ⇒ CELEBRATION OF LAY MINISTRY

Save the Date