



# Epistle

## May 2024

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
19 W. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., WALKERSVILLE, MARYLAND  
301-845-4600 | WWW.SAINTPAULSLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG

## 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 18, 2024 from 9 am to 2 pm**. Last year's event was very successful with your help! 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. In order for the Strawberry Festival to be a success we need your help!

*"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*

Please contact any of the Committee Contacts listed below to volunteer:

- **Welcome Tent** (Lauren McCloskey) - share St. Paul's history and outreach ministries
- **Quilt Tent** (Kate Stottlemeyer) - selling quilts
- **Food Tent** - hand out FREE hot dogs, chips, and bottled water
- **Bake Table** (Marcia Gupta) - make bake goods for sale (drop off on Friday, May 20th in Parish Hall) and/or help sell Bake items
- **Strawberry Shortcake Tent** (Betsy Galliher) - need bakers to make 9x13 shortcakes, pre-assemble items prior to the event or help sell Strawberry Shortcakes.
- **Roasted Nuts** (Sam Purswell) - need help bagging and selling roasted nuts
- **Set-Up** - tents/tables/chairs between 7am and 9am
- **Take-Down** - starting around 1:30 PM
- **Runners** (ad hoc) restock items for the tents (as needed); take care of the garbage cans
- **Yard Sale** (Kay Wachter) - volunteers to take donations, set up and staff the yard sale
- **Plant Sale** - (Roxanne Smith) need plant donations and volunteers to sell plants



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Our Spring Blood Drive is scheduled for Friday, May 31st. If you are able to donate your time to help make this a success, please contact the Parish Office. We greatly appreciate you!



**The Year Round Stocking Stuffer Project**

*The month of May has sprung upon us!*

We are half way there to Stocking Stuffing Time! This month we need Lip Gloss, Bath Sponges, socks for infants to 2 year olds as well as for boys and girls from 3 years old to teenagers. You always have the option for a financial donation also. Please see Kay for more details.



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



We will be receiving baked goods for the Strawberry Festival on Friday, May 17th 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 Marcia Gupta through the Parish Office.



We are bringing back the dunk tank to Strawberry Festival! Anyone else brave enough to be the dunkee? If so, please contact Marcia Gupta through the Parish Office! We need volunteers to run the Dunk Tank as well!

# Pastor's Peace

*“<sup>12</sup> For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.*

*<sup>13</sup> For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. <sup>14</sup> For in fact the body is not one member but many.” —  
1 Corinthians 12:12-14.*

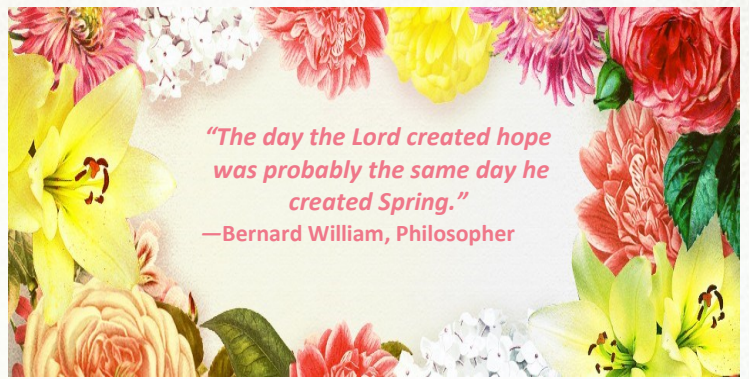
In the near future we will be sending out a letter to members who have not been active participants in the life of the congregation. The first thing this letter mentions is that we have missed them and wish them good health.

The letter in essence is one that welcomes these members back into active participation in our congregation. When we went through the process of updating our Constitution, we updated the descriptors of what it meant to be a member of St. Paul's. Our Constitution defines an active member as one who will have voting privileges when we come together to do the business of the church and is identified as one who has communed and made a financial contribution in the past year. When we updated our software for financial and membership applications, a part of the consideration for the cost of this software is the number of active members we have in our congregation. So in faithful stewardship of the funds you share with your church, we are in the process of updating our records, and more importantly, want to connect with members who have fallen away for whatever reason.

The letter reads in part:

*“if our records are in error - if you have been active during 2022 or 2023, please let us know so that we can make this correction.*

Second, if you have indeed been inactive during this time period, I would like to invite you back to be a participant in the life of this congregation. If this is a possibility, I would very much like to meet with you to talk about getting re-involved at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.



*“The day the Lord created hope  
was probably the same day he  
created Spring.”*

*—Bernard William, Philosopher*

## Pastor's Peace Cont'd

Third, if you have become a member of another congregation, please let me or the church office know so that we can make this update to our records.

Finally, if you are indeed inactive here and are not involved in another congregation, I would like to encourage you to find a church home, even if it is somewhere other than St. Paul's Lutheran in Walkersville. It is vitally important to have the support of a church family, especially in this day and time when it is more and more difficult to live out our faith in a world that is more and more secular.

If you have moved away from the area and need to know what congregations are nearby, I can certainly help you find another Lutheran congregation.”

The letter has been approved by the Generosity Committee who presented it to St. Paul's Council for approval and action which they did. Again, this letter is meant to be an invitation back into the life of St. Paul's and to be in community with those who miss your presence.

*“From whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.” —  
Ephesians 4:16*

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



### Strawberry shortcake bakers!!

\*\*\*Important\*\*\* We need 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 15th from 5-8 pm, Thursday the 16th from, 9 am to 4 pm, or text Betsy for questions. Thank you all!!



Our annual Yard Sale will be held during Strawberry Festival 2024. Donations will be collected on the parsonage front porch beginning Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Please follow the signs for placement of items. Donations can be dropped off anytime through Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, we will not be able to receive donations on Saturday. This year's proceeds will be used to support the monthly free community dinners headed up by Roxanne Smith.

Volunteers are needed to sort donations and set up on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 9am until 3pm, drop by any time to lend a hand. If you are available to help sell on Saturday, please contact Kay Wachter through the parish office, or speak to her after Worship. Thank you so much for the continued support of the annual Yard Sale at St. Paul's!

## 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 27<sup>th</sup> Cassandra King  
Noah King
- May 28<sup>th</sup> Ellen Bucheimer
- May 29<sup>th</sup> Brenda Bruning
- May 30<sup>th</sup> Troy Keeney  
Linda Yopp

## Upcoming Events

- May 5th — Ministry Sunday
- May 12th — Mother's Day
- May 18th— Strawberry Festival
- May 27th— Memorial Day
- May 31st— American Red Cross Blood Drive

