

November 2024 | Monthly Newsletter  
Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

14 WEST PENNSYLVANIA AVE., WALKERSVILLE, MD 21793

301-845-4600 | [www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](http://www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org)

# Epistle



## November Birthdays

<b>November 5</b>	Bonnie Leins Jim Titmas Tori Valcarcel
<b>November 6</b>	Michael Plowman
<b>November 7</b>	Kristen Jack
<b>November 9</b>	Kelly Myer
<b>November 10</b>	Merle Anderson
<b>November 16</b>	Florence Schell Samuel Zeller
<b>November 22</b>	Nicholas Kahler
<b>November 26</b>	Cathy Kutz Travis Waters
<b>November 30</b>	Patricia Fellows

*"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving,"  
— Mother Teresa*



**Please come join us for our  
All Saints Sunday Service  
on November 3rd at 9:00am.**

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.

Join Saint Paul's as we honor  
our Veterans  
**November 10, 2024**

On November 10, 2024 we will be recognizing our Military Members. If you have served, are serving or if you would like to honor a Service Member Please send the name, year(s) served, Branch, whether they are deceased, have served or is currently serving to the Parish Office by **November 5, 2024.**







**Now through December 8th – Submit names of loved ones to receive a Winter Love bag to the Parish Office either via email:**

**[officeadministrator@Sainttpaulslutheranchurch.org](mailto:officeadministrator@Sainttpaulslutheranchurch.org), or by phone 31-845-4600.**

Congregational Life Committee is asking for your support by donating monies for last minute fresh food or by purchasing the following items to help us fill the comfort bags: packaged hard candy bags, cough drops, Chapstick (brand), playing cards, word search books, puzzle books, Kleenex small square boxes, any prepackaged snacks, or anything that will bring care and love to shut-ins.

Now through December 15th - Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Office during office hours, 9am-1pm or on Sundays (church).



**Annual Stocking Stuffing:  
Tentatively Sunday,  
December 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:30am in  
the Social Hall.**

All are invited to join us as we fill this year's stockings to be distributed through the Glade Valley Community Services Toy Shoppe.

If you are not able to volunteer your time and would like to contribute financially please make note on your online donation or give it directly to the program coordinator, Kay Wachter.

We would also appreciate any donations of prewrapped candy for ages 4 and up.

Special thanks to Shirley Eshelman for sewing the stockings. And thank you to the congregation to for their continual support of this community outreach!

**Don't forget to set your clocks  
back one hour on Saturday  
night, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**



**Church Clean Up Day  
Saturday, November 9th  
9:00am**

## **FRIENDSGIVING** *At Victoria Park*

St. Paul's will be living out our mission statement, "Through Christ, we joyfully feed the body, mind, and spirit of all," by providing and serving Thanksgiving dinner to the residents of Victoria Park.

St. Paul's will be hosting Friendsgiving on Saturday, 11/30 from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. The residents are extremely grateful for the continued support of the members of St. Paul's who lovingly and joyfully share their time and talents!

Please see the link below to sign up for food and/or volunteering to serve. Donated items can be dropped off at the Parish Hall at 11:00 am on 11/30 or pickup arrangements can be made.

<https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/UXKM3693>

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Mildenstein at [mrussamy@aol.com](mailto:mrussamy@aol.com) or Lori King at [lb69king@yahoo.com](mailto:lb69king@yahoo.com).



# Pastor's Peace

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give" 2 Corinthians 9:7*

November is typically when most churches embrace a new covenant in stewardship with their members. Our Generosity Ministry has been working diligently to discern ways in which we can reach out without being onerous in times of uncertainty. I have seen it already creeping into our lives with Christmas decorations proliferating most major retailers in a time where we might become increasingly consumed by materialism. In these times, the act of giving takes on profound significance. For us, this act transcends mere charity; it embodies a deep-rooted understanding of stewardship, grace, and community.

At the heart of our beliefs lies the conviction that all we possess is a gift from God. Therefore, sharing our blessings is not merely an obligation but a joyful response to God's grace. We view giving as an expression of faith, recognizing that our contributions reflect our gratitude for God's abundant love. Our talents, resources, and time are blessings meant to be shared. When we give generously, we acknowledge God's abundant gifts. It's not about the amount we give but the heart behind it. Giving is not merely a duty; it's a joyful expression of our faith and gratitude for God's incredible grace. Remember the widow's offering (Mark 12:41-44)? Her small gift was a profound act of faith, demonstrating that true generosity comes from a willing spirit.

This perspective emphasizes that giving is not just about financial support. It encompasses time, talent, and resources. Whether volunteering at the Thrift Shop, Glade Valley Food Bank, monthly meals service, ushering, lecturing, serving as a communion assistant, or a council member, are all acts of service that manifest the love of Christ in real ways. Giving from a Lutheran perspective is an integrated endeavor. It encompasses gratitude, community, and faith. As individuals and congregations strive to live out this calling, we not only impact the lives of others but also strengthen our own spiritual journey. Embracing generosity transforms us and invites us to participate in God's mission on Earth.

As we journey through this month, let's take a moment to reflect on the essence of generosity in our lives as disciples on a mission. Generosity is more than just a practice; it's a heartfelt response to the grace we've received from God. How has generosity impacted your life? Your experiences can inspire others to engage in acts of kindness and we invite you to share your stories with us each and every day. Generosity not only impacts those who receive; it enriches our community. When we give, we foster connections and build relationships. Together, we become a reflection of Christ's love in the world. This month, let's make it a goal to reach out to someone in need. A simple act of kindness—a phone call, a meal, or a listening ear—can make a significant difference.

In Lutheran theology, giving is deeply intertwined with the concept of stewardship. We are stewards of God's gifts, meaning everything we have, to include our time, talents, and resources, belongs to God. This highlights the importance of intentionality in our giving. It's about the spirit behind the gift, not just the gift itself. As we reflect on our own giving, how can we be more generous? Are there areas in our lives where we can stretch ourselves? Remember, giving doesn't always have to be financial. Sometimes, the gift of time or a listening ear can be just as impactful, perhaps serving as a Stephen Minister. We ask God to help us to recognize the joy in giving and to share our resources generously with others. May our hearts be open to the needs around us, and may our giving reflect God's love and grace in the world.

*"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased!" Hebrews 13:16*


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







*"Not all of us can do great things. But  
we can do small things with great love."  
—Mother Teresa*



As Christians, we are called to love God and love others. One of those ways we express love is by our generosity. The majority of the time when we hear that word we automatically think "money." True, *being generous with our finances is a piece of the pie and we can see that plainly in scripture. But you don't have to be rich to be generous. It's not about the amount you give, it's about the willingness to give as much as you can.*

Generosity in its most natural state is just "giving." *It's giving of yourself, whether it's your time, sharing your talents and gifts, money, work, etc...*

So, many times we try to "hold" onto these things for ourselves or for ones who we think are worthy to give to. Or sometimes we only show generosity when it benefits us in return. That's actually not being generous at all, for the true generous heart is to give and not to expect anything in return and not seeking personal gain.

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly,*

*so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:6-8*

Generosity in the Bible is actually a function of the fruit of the Spirit; it is hidden in the Greek word for goodness.

### **Living out Generosity in Your Life**

As the year is winding down, how did you live out Generosity in 2024? What are your goals/plans for continuing expressing Generosity to others in 2025?

- How did I give and be a benefit to my spouse, my family, my friends, to my church, my workers, to my neighbors, etc?
- How did the Lord guide you and give you ideas on how to express that generosity?

### **Get to Know Your WHY!**

- WHY does St. Paul's matter to people both inside and outside of the congregation?
- WHY should people support St. Paul's work/ministries?
- HOW can I support my church in 2025?

- \* Increase my tithing by \_\_\_\_\_%
- \* Volunteering my time to serve on a ministry team - right click [here](#) to see the attached Time & Talent Sheet for opportunities to share your gifts and talents.
- \* Serve On Council (2-year term)

### **St. Paul's Generosity Statement:**

**We believe** in sharing our lives with the lives of others through our time, talents, and possessions.

**We commit** ourselves to freely opening our hearts in service to our neighbor utilizing our gifts to the glory of God.

**We invite** everyone to share the Grace we have experienced through the Holy Spirit knowing God gave.

### **Mark your Calendar Generosity Sunday, November 10, 2024**

If you have any questions or would like to share your Faith story, please reach out to the Generosity Ministry Team.







We are beginning preparations for the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Christkindlmarket. It will happen on Saturday December 7th from 10am-2pm. 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. Please see the weekly emails and bulletins for more information.

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/>

## A Note from Ellen Buchheimer

I have been a member of St. Paul's since I was an infant and my family has attended since years before that. Having served on the Council now for about two years I wanted to share what the experience has meant to me.

As a Council person, I have been involved in organizing and supporting all of the great events that fill our calendar – *Strawberry Festival, Trunk or Treat, Kris Kringle, Clothes Closet, etc..* Working together as a team with other Council members and the congregation allows me to get to know my fellow congregants better while providing a sense of fulfillment in contributing to our church community.

The Council also manages the building and pays the bills, so, I've gained an appreciation for what it takes to keep this community moving ahead. It takes a lot! I would like to invite all my fellow members of St. Paul's to consider attending a Council meeting to see what's involved and join us in keeping St. Paul's a peaceful, productive sanctuary in our community.

If you would like more information please contact me through the Parish Office via email at [officeadministrator@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](mailto:officeadministrator@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org) or call 301-845-4600.



***Help us decorate for Christmas  
by purchasing a Poinsettia!***

Red are available for \$10.00 each.  
You can right click [here](#) and open to sign up on line, you may also use the sign up sheet on the side door bulletin board, or in person at the Parish Office, with a check or cash.

***The deadline for ordering is  
Sunday, December 15th or until all are sold.***







## St. Paul's Quilts Travel To North Carolina

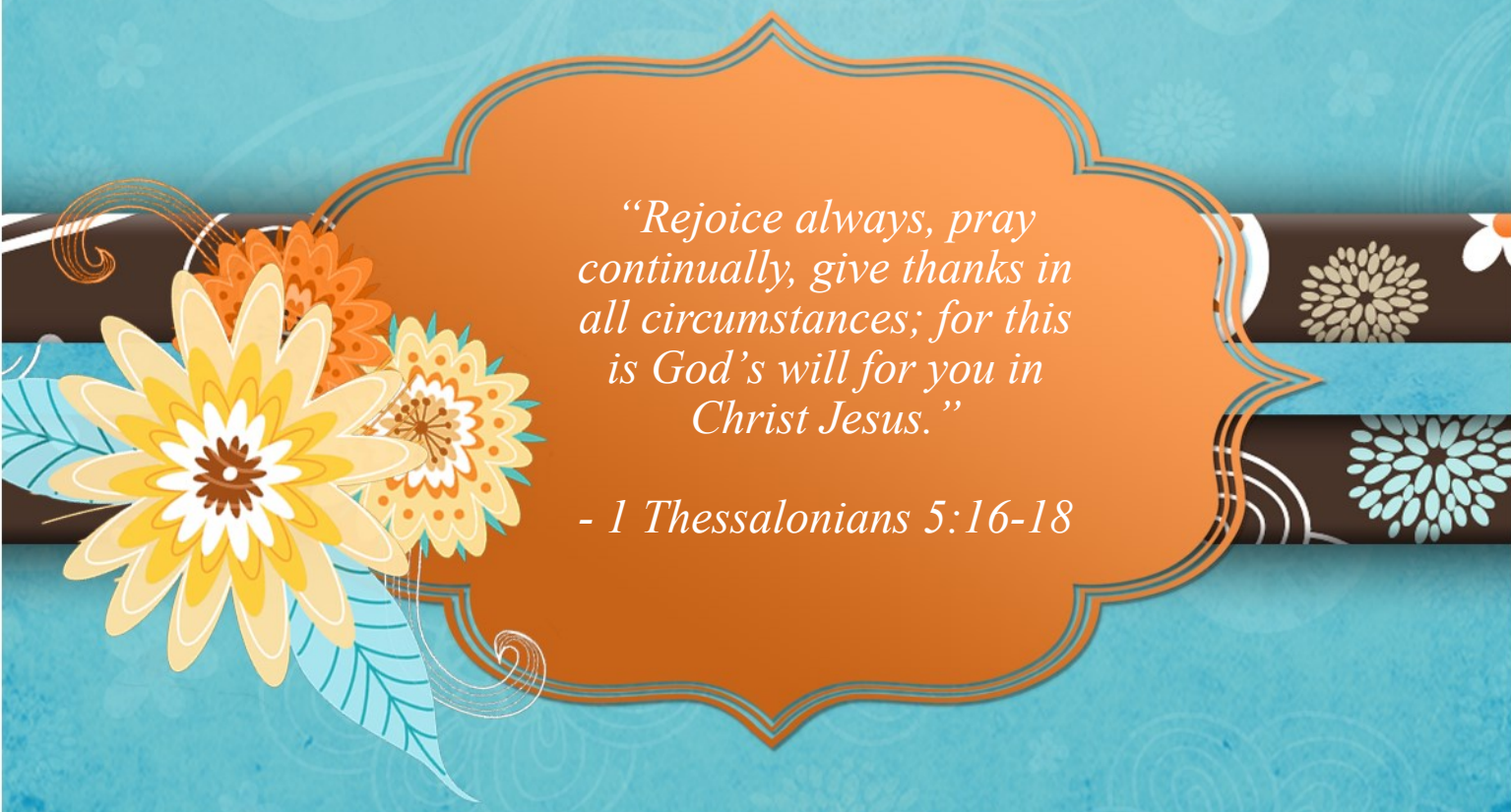
Near the end of October, twenty of St. Paul's children's quilts accompanied Belinda Burriss to North Carolina to aid in the Hurricane Helene relief effort. These quilts, clearly labeled with our church's name, address, phone number and url, will be distributed along with other collected supplies for babies and young children to families in storm ravaged areas. Although they missed the Blessing scheduled for November, Pastor blessed all twenty of them soundly in the trunk of Kate Stottlemeyer's car on their way to the drop-off location. ("A new experience", he said.) We pray that these quilts wrap children in God's love with which they were sewn.

At Worship on Sunday, November 17, we will bless at least 30 quilts, most of which are earmarked for Children of Incarcerated Parents. Year-to-date, we have distributed 100 quilts, mainly to Children of Incarcerated Parents, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Faith House and Belinda's "mission trip". If you know of any reasonably local (for easy pick-up/delivery) organizations—or families who might be down on their luck—that might be interested in children's quilts, please contact Kate or the Church Office. No child should go to sleep cold. These quilts warm the body and comfort the soul, thereby fulfilling St. Paul's Mission Statement: Through Christ, we joyfully feed the body, mind and soul of all.

We thank you for your generous support and welcome your help in the future. How can you help?

1. Prayers— We can do nothing without God's blessing and aid.
2. Sewing— No cutting or designing required. All you need is a sewing machine and thread (any color(s)—it won't show). See Kate for details.
3. Knotting— It's easy! If you can tie your shoe, you can knot a quilt. Check the Bulletin for dates.
4. Donations of fabric (scraps are okay), new or gently-used sheets in children's prints or bright solids, and low-loft quilt batting.
5. Donations of cash for purchasing supplies (especially batting). Clearly label your donation "quilts".

*At this time, we are in particular need of cash donations.*



*"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

*- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*





## From Your Attic to the North Pole!

She needs your help. Venture into your attic, basement, garage, closets, etc. in search of indoor/outdoor decorations, Re-giftable items, white elephant gifts, items not matching your décor, Christmas or otherwise--in good repair. Bring them (boxed, please) to the Library area of St. Paul's on Sundays between now and Thanksgiving.

***Mrs. Claus will do the rest.  
Thank you.***



### Turkey Tree & GVCS Food Bank

If you would like to support the Glade Valley Food Bank during the holiday season, take a tag off of the Turkey Tree in the front of the overflow area. Place monetary donations in the brown envelope and place it in the offering plate. If you would rather give a monetary donation on-line, you can go to the website and drop down to the "fundraiser" line item and add Turkey Tree. St. Paul's will send all money collected to help the Food Bank in their efforts to help those in need during the holidays. If you would like to contribute other items to be delivered, they are in need of cereal, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, boxed crackers, baked beans, canned pasta, canned tuna and mac 'n' cheese.

### Ushers/Greeters Needed!

We are in need of volunteers to serve as Ushers and Greeters at Services.

**Ushers** smile, sign in members and take names of visitors; report names of visitors to Pastor before Service; pass the plate during Offertory; direct people and serve wine during Communion; and, in the absence of Greeters, offer bulletins and a cheerful greeting.

**Greeters** offer bulletins and an enthusiastic greeting (hugs optional) to all, especially visitors.

Ideally, we want two of each for each Service. To serve, please contact Kate Stottlemeyer or the Church Office.



## Upcoming Events:

November 3rd	All Saints Snnday
November 5th	Community Dinner
November 9th	Church Clean Up Day
November 10th	Generosity Sunday
	Veterans Day Recognition
November 16th	Community Dinner
November 17th	Quilt Blessing
November 28th	Thanksgiving Day
November 30th	Friendsgiving @ Victoria Park
December 7th	Christkindl Mart