

Epistle

May 2025

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

19 W. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., WALKERSVILLE, MARYLAND

301-845-4600 | WWW.SAINTPAULSLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG

Strawberry Festival

Saturday, May 17th 9am-2pm



Saint Paul's Strawberry Festival started in 1966; this year is our 59th year of Welcoming the Community to Saint Paul's.

*Through Christ, we joyfully feed the body,
mind, and spirit of all.*

A quote from Saint Paul's website. *"We, the people of St. Paul's are a community for spiritual health, centered in Christ. We challenge ourselves to share and live in Christ's Love with the congregation, within the community and to the larger world".*

Please contact Marcia 301-662-8044 or Marie 240-446-1641, with questions regarding the event.

Thank you to Everyone who has volunteered with the Strawberry Festival over the past 58 years.

Romans 12:4-5

For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

As we prepare for our 59th year, your time & talents are needed again. The participation openings are listed below.

- Setting up -clean up after event – Tables- Chairs - Friday, May 16, 12pm – 5pm
- Bake Sale items needed- Bake goods– All items can be dropped off Friday, May 16th between 12pm-5pm.
- Plants & planter donations needed – Contact Roxanne 301-639-0900 or Marie 240-446-1641
- Donations to help with the costs of the event – Please mark your monetary donations "Strawberry Festival" Online or on the memo line of a check.
- Strawberry Tent Volunteers
- Posting Flyers - Signs
- Yard Sale "May 7th –is the start date to drop off items - leave all items on the front porch of the Parsonage
- Call Kay if you need items picked up. Kay 301-639-5256
- May 14th Kay starts setting up for the yard sale-Set up starts at 9am – 3pm
- The Yard Sale Begins - Thursday, May 15th and runs through Saturday - May 17th 9am -3pm

Pastor's Peace

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.” James 1:19.

As Lutherans, we treasure the Word — not just as something we hear on Sunday mornings, but as the living voice of God that speaks to us, guides us, and equips us to speak love and truth into the world. Martin Luther reminded us often that “faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17). At the Reformation, Martin Luther reminded the Church that the Word of God must **be heard, read, spoken, sung, and shared**. This is how faith is formed and sustained. In a noisy world, our Lutheran witness calls us to speak with **clarity, grace, and truth**, always pointing back to Jesus Christ.

Communication, then, is not simply about talking — it is about bearing witness. In a time when communication is everywhere but understanding is rare, let us return to our foundation: the Word. Let's strive to communicate clearly, truthfully, and lovingly — as Christ does with us. Communication is at the heart of our Christian life.

Whether we are preaching, teaching, writing, texting, or simply listening, how we communicate reflects the Christ we follow. Let's ask ourselves daily: Are my words building up or tearing down? Am I listening as Christ listens to me in prayer?

Let us be people whose speech reflects the mercy we've received. May our speech always reflect the grace we have received. Martin Luther once wrote: “When the heart is full, the mouth overflows. The mouth speaks from the abundance of the heart.” Our speech is not just about manners, it flows from what fills us. Let us be filled with the Gospel, so that our words may bring life and healing.

In the Small Catechism, Luther teaches us that to keep the Eighth Commandment — “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor,” we are to “defend them, speak well of them, and explain everything in the kindest way.”

In today's world of quick messages and shorter tempers, that's no small challenge. Yet as God's people, we are called to reflect Christ in how we speak, not just in sermons or devotions, but in text messages, conversations at the dinner table, and even on social media. Christian communication isn't just about truth, but also about tone. We are to be people whose words bring life, grace, and peace.

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

—Bernard William,
Philosopher

Pastor's Peace cont'd

Let us listen well. Let's speak carefully. And above all, let us remember: the Word became flesh, and that Word is still speaking through His people. If you feel you are not hearing, do not be afraid to ask. If you feel things are not being communicated in a manner that builds up each and every person don't hesitate to communicate those feelings on the spot. Sometimes we feel as if someone should know what we are thinking, yet often times we don't. It's important to not be afraid to speak up and be heard so that all others will be heard as well.

“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up... that it may give grace to those who hear.”
Ephesians 4:29

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

*“Keep on loving one another as brothers
and sisters. Do not forget to show hospi-
tality to strangers, for by doing so, some
people have shown hospitality to angels
without even knowing it.”*

—Hebrews 13:1,2



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 after worship 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 14th or Thursday, May 15th from 9am to 1pm. If evening drop off is necessary or you have any other questions, please contact Candy Foucart through the Parish Office for questions. Thank you all!!



Our annual Yard Sale will be held the Thursday and Friday prior to and during the Strawberry Festival 2025. Donations will be collected on the parsonage front porch beginning Wednesday, May 7th. Please follow the signs for placement of items. Donations can be dropped off anytime through Wednesday, May 14th.

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 Wednesday, May 14th from 9am until 3pm, drop by any time to lend a hand. If you are available to help sell Thursday, Friday or 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!



We will be receiving baked goods for the Strawberry Festival on Friday, May 16th 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 Nancy Cochran through the Parish Office with any questions.



The time of change...
Noisy change that is!

Start gathering all those coins laying around and bring them to church! Through May 18th we will be collecting loose coin offerings to take to the Synod Assembly at the end of May.
Bring on the change!

May Birthdays

- May 3rd Luke Zeller
- May 4th Kay Wachter
- May 5th Lauren Johnson
- May 12th Thomas Kutz
- May 20th Connie Chesnik
- May 21st Marie Purswell
J.T. Valcarcel
- May 22nd Jeff King
- May 24th Bennet Isenrock
- May 27th Cassandra King
Noah King
- May 28th Ellen Bucheimer
- May 29th Brenda Bruning
- May 30th Troy Keeney
Linda Yopp

"Spread love everywhere you go.

*Let no one ever come to you
 without leaving happier."*

—Mother Teresa

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:

- *Lotion for kids (small containers)
- *Boys infant socks
- *Cloth books

You always have the option for a financial donation also. Please see Kay for

We've got a wonderful opportunity to serve our church community coming up. We're planning a cleanup day on **Saturday, May 3rd @ 9:00am**, and we'd love to have your help. We'll be working

together to spruce up the church inside and out. Think of it as a chance to fellowship and make our church a brighter, more welcoming place. Hope to see you there!



COMMUNITY DINNER

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Bring Family and Friends, Tuesday, May 6th, 3:00PM to 5:00PM
Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church, 101 S Main St., Woodsboro, MD

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Upcoming Events

****Noisy Change time! Now through May 18th!

- May 3rd — Property Clean Up, 9:00am
- May 4th — Ministry Sunday, 10am
- Celebration of Lay Ministry
- May 6th — Community Dinner 5pm
- May 11th — Mother's Day
- May 15th and 16th — Yard Sale 9am-3pm
- May 17th— Strawberry Festival and Yard Sale
- May 26th— Memorial Day
- May 30th and 31st— Synod Assembly



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

—Martin Luther