



# Epistle

## July 2025

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

19 W. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., WALKERSVILLE, MARYLAND

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## Jesus is still on the MOVE this summer at St. Paul's and want's you to hear what he has to say!

It's not too late to join in the summer of VBS fun. We begin on Monday July 7<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm and continue through Friday, July 11<sup>th</sup> with a live performance at 7:00pm. We gather in the Social Hall, so follow the sign to the side entrance. The registration link is still up on the website and QR codes are on the bulletin boards and in the bulletins.. We encourage you to invite a friend to join us. Children ages 4 and up are welcome as well as their parents. We hope you join us in discovering What Jesus Says!

## Walkersville Carnival

The Walkersville Volunteer Fire Company Carnival will be held this year from Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. In the past members of St. Paul's have been faithful in providing help to the Fire company for this event and that has been greatly appreciated. Again, this year the Fire Company is requesting the help of St. Paul's for this event. Help is needed in the Food Building and various other places on the grounds. If you can help, just show up any night and help for whatever time fits in your schedule. The hours of the Carnival are roughly from 5:00pm until 10:00pm. Feel free to come anytime and stay as long as you wish. Thanks again for your continued support.

***"Luther would ask who benefits from our liberty. For Luther,  
the answer is our neighbors, not ourselves."***

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## July Birthdays

- July 5<sup>th</sup> - Michael King  
Barbara Sofinowski
- July 12<sup>th</sup> - Kathleen St. Denis
- July 13<sup>th</sup> - Nicklas Pank
- July 15<sup>th</sup> - Kelly Anderson
- July 19<sup>th</sup> - Artie Fauble
- July 20<sup>th</sup> - Jean Kelley  
Lauren McCloskey
- July 23<sup>rd</sup> - Sue Snyder
- July 27<sup>th</sup> - Stephanie Isenock
- July 28<sup>th</sup> - Mary Ann Conley  
Betty Schubert
- July 29<sup>th</sup> - Heather Anderson
- July 31<sup>st</sup> - Brian Smith  
Zachary Zeller

# Report of the 36th Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly

Centered in Christ:  
Church in Perilous Times

May 30 & 31, 2025

We gathered for worship, to celebrate what God is doing through our congregations and ministries and to be together as the body of Christ.

We learned about the new Synod Vision Teams, organized around some of the main functions of the Synod:

**Equipping Leaders-** raising up and supporting both lay and rostered ministers. This includes the work of candidacy (preparing pastors and deacons for ministry), the call process (calling new leaders to congregations), lay leadership development and shared ministry (congregations coming together to share leaders)

**Connecting Ministries-** collaborating for stronger ministry together. This includes Synodical youth ministry, young adult ministry, and groups like the Synodical Women's Organization that bring groups together.

**Bearing Witness-** collectively witnessing to God's love and justice, including mission congregations and the work of justice ministries such as Creation Care, the Hunger Task Force and the Racial Justice Team, among many others.

We passed the following Resolutions and Memorials:

- Approved a resolution encouraging our Bishop and those in our congregations to communicate with their elected officials to support preserving funds for SNAP program.

## *Resolutions and Memorials cont'd*

- Approved Global Church Sunday to be held on a Sunday in January 2026 to bring attention to our connections to Lutheran churches in Tanzania, Finland and Estonia and support ELCA programs that work to connect our global connections.
- Approved a resolution to establish a South west Asia—North Africa (also known as the Middle East) Peace Team in our Synod to accompany, collaborate, educate, advocate, and engage on issues of justice and peace and connect with ELCA programs in this work.
- Approved a Memorial to encourage the Presiding Bishop and the Churchwide Organization to exercise their authority to support vulnerable communities in national legal matters when needed.
- Approved a Memorial calling on the ELCA Presiding Bishop and ELCA church members to advocate for human rights for all Palestinians and Israelis and support policies that end the occupation and promote a just and peaceful resolution of the conflict.
- Approved a Memorial to urge the 2025 Churchwide Assembly to consider the recommendations from the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church with regards to mutual accountability to become a more anti-racist church.



# Christmas In July

Lauren McCloskey

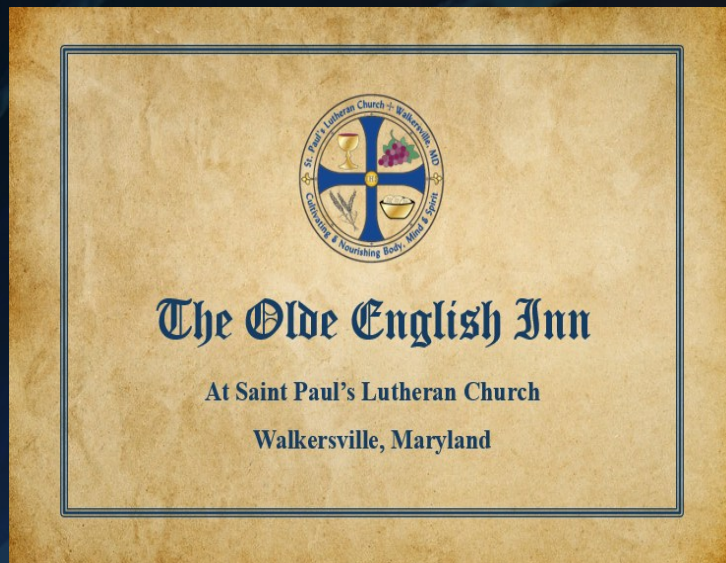
Although we are five months away from the sacred season of anticipation and joy, our church family is preparing for a very special tradition that we have not shared in quite some time—The Olde English Inn. This festive event isn't just about decorations, costumes (if you wish), or themed dinners. It's about coming together in fellowship to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

There is something powerful about gathering as a body of believers. In a world filled with distractions and division, the church is called to be a light—a place where love, unity, and faith shine through. The Olde English Inn is one of those moments where the heart of the church can be fully seen: in laughter shared over a meal, in carols sung by candlelight, and in hearts reminded of the true meaning of Christmas.

However, this celebration doesn't come together on its own. It takes a village—our village. Volunteers are the backbone of this event. From setting tables and hanging garland, to rehearsing songs and preparing food, every helping hand matters. Each act of service, big or small, is an offering of love that helps create an atmosphere of warmth and welcome for all who attend.

If you've ever been part of the behind-the-scenes magic, this is your year. I am looking for those who have experienced this event firsthand. I am also looking for those who may have some ideas on what this event can look like. Whether you're handy in the kitchen, gifted in hospitality, or just have a willing heart, there's a place for you. Serving not only blesses others—it deepens your own experience of the season and strengthens the bonds of our church community.

Let us come together to make this year's Olde English Inn one to remember. Not for the grandeur, but for the spirit of unity and joy that comes when we celebrate Christ—together.



## ***JULY IS HERE!***

We are just *four months* away from  
Stocking Stuffing Time!

### **WE NEED:**

**\*24 Count Crayons**

**\*10 Count Skinny Markers**

**\*10 Count Fat Markers**

**\*Pencil Sharpeners**

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



*True gratitude does not depend upon material possessions. It is enriched by accepting the bad with the good. It increases with giving more than with receiving. It flourishes at the moment that we realize that God's grace is over us and around us, and that nothing can separate us from God's loving grace. We rejoice, not because of all the good things in our lives (although we should not fail to do that), but because in grace our names are written in Heaven.*

*-- Luke 10:20*

# DID YOU KNOW?

There are several other options to support our church and its mission!! We, as a congregation, are in the time of the year when our giving typically declines. This happens due to vacations, summer holidays, graduations, and other summer events. Below are a few additional options that you might not be aware of to help increase giving *any time* during the year.

Many employers offer a program that will match your donations to a charitable organization of your choice. There are usually limits on the amount, but it's an easy way to maximize your impact and support.



If you are a policy holder with Thrivent Financial you may have “Thrivent Choice Dollars” that can be allocated to the church. See the link below for instructions on this program.

<https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/files/26087.pdf>



*We continue to offer electronic giving as an easy way to support the church even when you can't attend. As always, we appreciate every contribution to help our church continue its mission of feeding the body, mind, and spirit of all.*

## SUMMER AT THE FOOD BANK

Summer at the Food Bank means fewer donations are received, and our shelves can get bare.

Hunger doesn't take a summer vacation, and neither do our clients. Donate a food item for every day you are on vacation (or every day you wish you were on vacation).

Items most in need are:: Boxed Crackers, Baked Beans, Hamburger Helper, Bars of Soap, shampoo/conditioner, toilet paper, cereal, macaroni and cheese, Other needs are peanut butter, canned fruit, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce and canned peas.

If you have a garden, please remember the Food Bank. Our clients love fresh garden fruit and vegetables throughout the summer. Food Bank Email: [gxfb21w@gmail.com](mailto:gxfb21w@gmail.com).

Please bring your donations to the donation bin on the side of Town Hall.

## Upcoming Events

- ♦ **07/01/2025**— Community Dinner 5:00pm  
Executive Council 7:00pm
- ♦ **07/04/2025**— Independence Day
- ♦ **07/06/2025**— Ministry Sunday 10:00am
- ♦ **07/07/2025**— VBS begins @ 6pm
- ♦ **07/14/2025**— Worship & Arts 10am
- ♦ **07/15/2025**— Congregational Life 6pm  
Council 7pm
- ♦ **07/19/2025**— Community Dinner 5pm
- ♦ **07/23/2023**— Brunch Bunch 10am

