



# Epistle

## August 2025

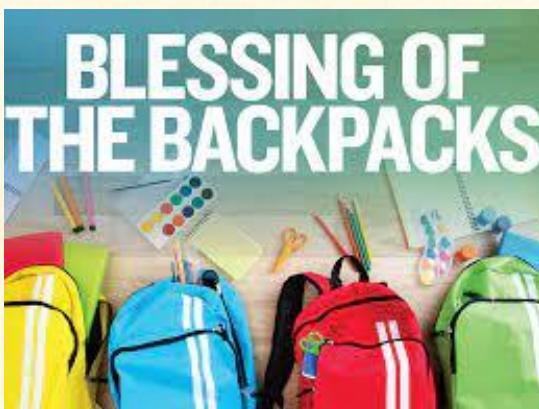
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

[WWW.SAINTPAULSLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.SAINTPAULSLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG) - 301-845-4600

## BACK TO SCHOOL TIME ALREADY!

### Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup> is Blessing of the Backpacks!

"Heading back to school soon? Don't forget your backpack, briefcases, laptops and school supplies! Get them blessed to remind you God is with you wherever you go. Beyond the supplies, let's also bless the spirit of learning! Join us to pray for all students, from preschoolers to college students, teachers and all school employees to have a successful and safe school year! You are all invited to join us for this uplifting back-to-school tradition."



## August Birthdays

August 8<sup>th</sup> - Lukas Pank

August 10<sup>th</sup> - Amy Koch

August 14<sup>th</sup> - Kate Stottlemeyer

August 15<sup>th</sup> - Erica Chesnik

August 16<sup>th</sup> - Rebekah King

August 19<sup>th</sup> - Riley Bruning

Sue-Etta Long

August 20<sup>th</sup> - Phyllis Dayhoff

August 21<sup>st</sup> - Thomas Kelley

August 22<sup>nd</sup> - Jay Leins

August 27<sup>th</sup> - Jackie Waas

August 28<sup>th</sup> - Trish Valcarcel



# August Call for Stephen Ministers

Stephen Ministry provides one-on-one compassionate listening presence to those experiencing difficult life situations. To do this Stephen Ministers trust God to provide the healing connection. Has someone said to you "Thanks for listening" or "You are a good listener?" Please consider exploring the opportunity to serve as a Stephen Minister for

St Pauls. Contact the church office to receive more information.

*1 Peter 4:10-11*  
"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with strength God provides so

that in all things God

may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."



*"We rise by lifting others."  
—Robert Ingersoll*

*And the second s  
like unto it, Thou  
shalt love thy  
neighbor as thyself.*

—Romans 8:30

## Annual Picnic and Outdoor Worship

*Saint Paul's and Bethel's  
Annual Worship in the Park*

**August 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am** worship in the park, @ Walkersville Community Park, (at the end of Kenneth Drive) Pavilion #2. The Picnic will directly follow. Fried Chicken, chips, bottled water and tableware will be provided. Please sign-up in the church with a side dish or dessert you would like to share or call the Parish Office.

Be sure to **RSVP to the office by Wednesday, August 20, 2025!** We want to make sure we have enough chicken for everyone!

**Sunday  
August 24<sup>th</sup>  
10:30am**



*christkindl*  
— M A R K E T —

We are beginning preparations for the 8th annual Christkindl market happening on **Saturday, December 6th** from 10am-2pm. Once again, the Walkersville Historical Society will be the event host. St. Paul's will have vendors and food similar to last year. Look for more information on those items as we get closer to the date.

We will be looking for donations of gently used **Christmas** items for "Mrs. Claus' attic." These are items that are affordable for children or individuals without a lot of funds to buy as gifts or decorations. Contact Marie Purswell for drop off times and location. We will also be looking for volunteers to help with the different areas so make sure you mark it on your calendars."

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

*Co-chairs are Amy and Russ Mildenstein*





*For the whole law is fulfilled in one word:  
"You shall love your neighbor as  
yourself" Luke 10:27*

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Phil, Lauren McCloskey, Roxanne Smith, and I partnered with Living Grace Church and Pastor Chris to share hospitality at Frederick Pride 2025.

This event celebrated the LGBTQ+ community gathering hundreds of supporters, local vendors, churches of various denominations, nonprofits, entertainment, and food options along Carroll Creek. The message was to "celebrate and uplift each other with love and pride".

The festival provided opportunities for people of all ages to better understand the LGBTQ+ community and the issues they encounter. Families could participate in activities in the children's area. Festival attendees had options to explore information about mental, physical, and spiritual health in an energetic and fun atmosphere.

Our booth offered free stickers, bookmarks, pencils, bracelets, and rainbow pins. We also shared welcoming information about both churches. It was an upbeat and loving crowd of people. I should not have worried about whether I would have to defend my faith or enter deep religious exchanges with passersby, that is what Pastors Chris and Phil were there for. It was easy to have conversations with those who stopped by our table. And what did they want to know?

- Can I have a pencil? (It said God Loves YOU)
- What kind of music does your church play?
- Where are you in Walkersville?
- Is your church ELCA?
- Do you have any stickers with a cross on it?
- I am so glad that you are here. The churches weren't represented here in the past and it is so good to see you.

These are all the neighbors we were meant to serve. I conversed with so many interesting people and am proud of the presence that St. Paul's and Living Grace had by participating in Frederick Pride 2025.

*Susan Hayes*

# Old Fashioned Hymn Sing and



# Ice Cream Social

**Sunday August 10  
5 PM**

## More Summer Fun at Saint Paul's! Come and sing with us!!!

Worship and Arts Committee is planning a hymn sing and ice cream social for **Sunday, August 10, at 5 pm in the parish hall**. Jeff will play for us. There will be singing of the older hymns we all love, with a guest master of ceremonies. Ice cream will be served afterwards with loads of toppings to choose from.

The hymn sing will be open to everyone. Invite your friends to come with you for a late afternoon of music and fun at St. Paul's! There will be a flyer posted in the church, on Facebook, and on our website. If you would like to post a flyer for a group you think would like to know about our hymn sing, see Betsy or Nancy to get one. We hope to see you there!!!



# A Sweet Thank You!



Thank You

Dear Quilters, 6.26.25  
A heartfelt thank you from  
Sleepin Heavenly Place of  
Frederick, MD for your  
generous donation of bed-  
spread and beautiful  
hand made quilts. Thank  
you for making these beauti-  
ful treasures for children  
who may be sleeping on  
the floor, but now have  
a bed and bedding to call  
their own. Your time and tal-  
ent is wonderful & generous  
gift. Blessings, J. Becke  
2-17-25

## Volunteers Welcome!

## Free Community Dinner

### All are welcome!

St. Paul's will be sponsoring the  
monthly dinner on **August 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
and **August 20<sup>th</sup>** 17<sup>th</sup> from  
5pm-7pm.

Please contact Roxanne Smith if you would like to  
volunteer your time or desserts.

[roxiesmith@verizon.net](mailto:roxiesmith@verizon.net)



**Hawaiian Bingo  
and Ice Cream Social**

**AT VICTORIA PARK  
AUGUST 2ND 1PM-3PM**

  
www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org



Pastor Phil will be on vacation from September 15<sup>th</sup>  
through September 29<sup>th</sup>. Worship on September 21<sup>st</sup>  
will be 11:15am at Bethel and on September 28<sup>th</sup>  
worship be 10:00am at St. Pauls.





Will you live out our mission statement "Through Christ, we joyfully feed the body, mind, and spirit of all"? As you all know, we have been serving the community of Bell Court with bi-monthly meals in conjunction with Woodsboro Lutheran Church. It has become abundantly clear that this community is in need of much more. Representatives from St. Paul's, Woodsboro, and GVCS met to discuss a strategy going to assist and have proposed an initial way forward. Much of what this community needs is accompaniment which falls directly into our mission to serve. As such, we are seeking volunteers who would be willing to "adopt a resident" to assist them with their needs.

The goal of this project is to come beside our neighbor, love them, and assist them as they might need. Some folks might just need help calling the doctor's office, help with laundry, dropping off supplies from GVCS, and other tasks we take for granted. Woodsboro and GVCS will also be partnering to provide additional care to this community. Please see Pastor, Roxanne, or call the church office should you have additional questions, or you are willing to volunteer to adopt a resident.

Peace Pastor Phil  
Email: [pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org)  
Cell phone: 202-497-0584

***"Every day, God gives us  
opportunities to sow spiritual needs  
into the lives of others."***  
*Tammy Kennington*



***This year's "God's Work our Hands" is the World Hunger Campaign. We are collecting items for the Residents of Bell Court to assist them with food and or donations to help lift our neighbors by Feeding the Body, mind and spirit of all. The items we are collecting are listed below.***

**Protein Drinks** --Ensure - Glucerna  
**Cases of Water and Gallon Water jugs**  
**Heat and eat items** - Microwavable dinners - Healthy choice  
**Microwavable rice** - white and brown  
**Canned heat and eat items** - Soups, Chilli - Beefaroni - Spaghetti's  
**Canned Tuna or Chicken**  
**Peanut butter**  
**Jelly** - regular and sugar free  
**Microwavable -Kraft mac and cheese**  
**Microwavable -Oatmeal**  
**Individual packaged** - Fruit Cups, Jello - Pudding, Apple sauce  
**Small assorted individual boxes of Cereal**  
**Crackers individual packs** - Oyster crackers  
**Veggie Sticks** - individual bags  
**Cookies** - Individual packs

**Wish list -**  
Stamps and Envelopes  
Hand Soaps  
Paper Towels  
Toilet Paper  
Kitchen Trash bags  
Laundry Soap

*You may drop off items at Worship, at the Parish Hall during business hours or see any member of the Congregational Life Ministry to arrange pick up.*



# Summer VBS



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> -- Hawaiian Bingo at Victoria Park 1pm

Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> -- Ministry Sunday, 10am

Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> -- Community Dinner, 5pm, Executive Council 7pm

Sunday August 10<sup>th</sup> -- Hymn Sing, 5pm

Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup> -- Community Dinner, 5pm

Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup> -- Blessing of the Quilts and Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup> -- Saint Paul's and Bethel's Annual Church Picnic and Worship at the Park

Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup> -- Labor Day

Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> -- God's Work Our Hands

Loving God, watch over our children as they begin their new school year. Bless them with joy at seeing friends, excitement at new experiences, and a love of learning.

Guide and protect all who learn, replacing fear with joy, anxiety with peace, and tiredness with energy. Give wisdom, patience, and joy to teachers as they serve their students.

In Jesus' name we pray.  
Amen.



**A BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRAYER**