

# Epistle

September 2025

14 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Walkersville, MD 21793  
| 301-8465-4600 | [www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](http://www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org)

## September Birthdays

Sept. 3	Elizabeth McGinnis
Sept. 4	Clarissa Walker
Sept. 5	Mark Stull
Sept. 10	Phil Smith Cindy Stull
Sept. 16	Lonnie Myer
Sept. 17	Justin Pank
Sept. 18	Sabrina Walker
Sept. 21	Sheila Kahler Lilian McCloskey
Sept. 23	Tom Waters
Sept. 25	Rachel Jennings
Sept. 27	Bonnie Easterday
Sept. 28	Dottie Titmas
Sept. 29	Phyllis Dobson Jill Eyler

## God's Work. Our Hands 2025

"This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace."

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.

Please reach out to anyone in the Congregational Life Ministry if you would like to donate items or if you would prefer to offer a donation. You can see an updated list of needs on page 4, in the weekly email or on the bulletin boards in church.

The final date for drop off and assembly is September 28th (to make it more convenient for folks). Items must be dropped off at Worship or at the Parish Hall Monday through Friday, 9am to 1pm by **September 28, 2025** for assembling and delivery to Bell Court.

*This will be a month long initiative for  
God's Work Our Hands 2025.*





# Pastor's Peace

These words are not only a reminder but a call to action. We are saved by grace through faith, but that faith should never remain idle. Martin Luther once said, "God doesn't need your good works, but your neighbor does." In the month of September, we will focus on hunger, both physical and spiritual and how we as the Church can respond with compassion, justice, and hope. Whether through food drives, advocacy, or simple acts of generosity, we are called to be Christ's hands in a hungry world. As such our God's Work, Our Hands Project is focused on creating food boxes for our neighbors in Bell Court. This project will culminate on September 28, 2025, when Pastor Fred Melton will be our guest to preach on world hunger and other issues he is passionate about.

*"For I was hungry  
and you gave me  
something to eat."  
Matthew 25:35*

We have also taken steps, in partnership with Pastor Ron Brown and Pastor Sean Delawder to bring the Word to the community of Bell Court. It is anticipated we will share worship with them on the third Sunday of the month with each Pastor taking the lead on alternating Sundays.

We worshipped there this past week and along with members of St. Paul's we enjoyed the company of eighteen folks eager to hear the Gospel preached and the Lord's Supper shared. With any endeavor, there are always improvements that can be made along the way and we are taking steps to make this a journey in accompaniment.

Hunger is not just a global issue; it affects families right here in our town. As part of the ELCA World Hunger initiative, our congregation is joining hands to fight hunger both near and far. God's abundant grace calls us to care for our neighbor because feeding others is not charity, it is justice in a community desperately in need of care. Every meal and every worship shared is a sign of God's love and provision.

Please find a way in which you can be involved in any of our food ministries or even donate to ELCA World Hunger at [www.elca.org/hunger](http://www.elca.org/hunger).

*"Give us this day our daily bread..."* — Matthew 6:11

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we don't say "Give me my daily bread", we say "our." This simple word reminds us that daily bread is not just a personal request but a communal one. In the Small Catechism, Luther teaches that "daily bread" includes everything we need for life: food, shelter, relationships, and peace.

May the God of abundance fill you with compassion, stir you to action, and bless the work of your hands as you feed the hungry and proclaim the Good News.

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



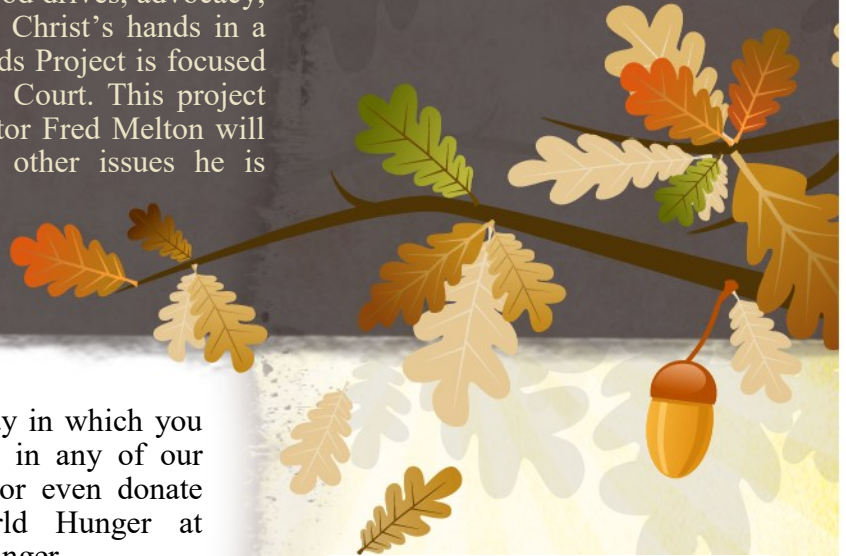
**christkindl**  
— MARKET —

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: Amy & Russ Mildenstein**





# Life is Like a Jigsaw Puzzle finding God's Purpose One Piece at a Time

Have you ever sat down to work on a jigsaw puzzle? At first, the pieces seem scattered and confusing. Some are oddly shaped, others seem like they don't belong anywhere, but as you keep working, with patience and perseverance, the picture slowly begins to take form. In many ways our lives and specifically our church lives are like that puzzle. Each day brings a new piece – sometimes joyful, some times challenging, sometimes unexpected. On its own, a single piece might not make sense. However, when we trust the One who manages the puzzle, our Creator,- we begin to understand that each moment in our lives matter.



Just as Romans 8:28 reminds us, “we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him who have been called according to his purpose.” That is to say, even when a piece doesn't seem to fit; God is placing it to “fit” perfectly into the puzzle of our lives.

We know that in all things, God works for the good of those who love him, those who have been called according to his purpose. Every lesson, every trial, every blessing is a piece. And one day, when the puzzle is complete, we'll see the beautiful masterpiece God has been creating all along. So today let us step up and think of the church as a puzzle with each of us representing a piece of the puzzle. Let us embrace the piece He's given us. Let's trust the process, let's walk in faith, and let's find joy in the unfolding puzzle!

—Barbara Cartwright

**REMINDER**

**Sunday, September 21st, combined  
worship at Bethel @ 11:15am**

**Sunday, September 28th, combined  
worship at St. Paul's @ 9:00am**



**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**Bring Family  
and Friends**

**Tuesday, September 2, 2025  
and Saturday, September 20th,  
5-7PM @ Woodsboro  
Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
101 S Main St.,  
Woodsboro, MD**



*"The smallest act of kindness  
can be the turning point in  
someone's darkest story."  
— Unknown.*



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**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 at eat items - Soups, Chilli - Beefaroni - Spaghetio'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.*

*This will be a month long Initiative ending September 28, 2025*



**Wednesday, September 10, 2025  
El Rancho @ 10:00am**

Join us for our monthly Brunch Bunch gathering, a wonderful opportunity to connect with church members in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere! This event provides a delicious and social way for fellowship, community, and to enjoy good food while sharing time together. We welcome all to come, connect, and enjoy



***Choir rehearsals will  
resume on Thursday,  
September 4th at 7pm  
in the sanctuary.***





## UPCOMING EVENTS

09/07/2025 - Ministry Sunday

09/10/2025 - Brunch Bunch @ 10am

09/14/2025 - Rally Day

09/21/2025 - Combined Worship @ Bethel

09/28/2025 - Combined Worship @ St. Paul's  
God's Work Our Hands



Annual  
Cookie  
Run



### Save the Date!

*September 14, 2025*

“Come the end of summer, we need “a renewal of energy” when it comes to spiritual matters. It’s hard to renew your energy on your own. But it’s much easier in a group. That’s why we set aside one special day at the end of the summer to “rally” - to “draw together for a common purpose” seeking the Holy Spirit’s power to “renew our energy” for worship, for digging into God’s Word, for praying, for serving, and for witnessing.”

- Pastor David Eibel

***More details coming soon!***

Get ready for a delightful experience at the Cookie Run for Mar Lu Ridge on Sunday, September 28, 2025, in beautiful Jefferson, Frederick! This exciting 5K event is more than just a race; it's a celebration of community and a chance to indulge in delicious cookies while supporting a great cause. The course begins with a thrilling downhill start, followed by an invigorating climb of approximately 450 feet over the next two miles. Runners will be supporting the newly established Sustainability Fund at Mar Lu Ridge, a cherished Lutheran summer camp and retreat center, helping to provide essential funding for summer staff.

Participants can look forward to unique rewards, including a one-of-a-kind race medal, a stylish Mar Lu Ridge bandana featuring a topographical map of the mountain, and, of course, plenty of tasty cookies to fuel your run! Join us for a fun-filled day that combines fitness, community spirit, and sweet treats at the Cookie Run for Mar Lu Ridge!

Click here to sign up!

<https://findarace.com/us/events/cookie-run-for-mar-lu-ridge>