



Epistle *October*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SAINT PAULS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | OCTOBER 2025

301-845-4600 | www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org | info@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org

Harvest Home Sunday, October 12th

An annual tradition in our congregation is to celebrate the harvest by returning a portion of God's gifts to be distributed to others in need.

On Sunday October 12th, please bring non-perishable food items to the church. We will be collecting those items at the communion rail. After service they will be counted and taken to the Glade Valley Food Bank. Check the Wednesday newsletter and bulletins for current Food Bank needs.

It's also pumpkin Sunday! Please pick up a pumpkin to enjoy at home, on your way out after worship

October Birthdays

- Oct. 2nd - Tyler Barrett
- Oct. 3rd - Stephen King
- Oct. 10th - Paul Kiever
- Oct. 18th - Sloane Donati
- Oct. 20th - Doug Campagnoli
Gary Wachter
- Oct. 23rd - Morgan Howell
- Oct. 25th - Darlene Kiever
- Oct. 26th - Marcia Gupta
- Oct. 27th - Anthony Jack
- Oct. 29th - Ashley Sube
Rebecca Sube
- Oct. 30th - Regina Cavell
Marilyn Gupta



*"Don't judge each day by the harvest
you reap, but by the seeds that you
plant"*

— Robert Louis Stevenson

TRUNK OR TREAT

It's Almost Time!

And that means it's almost time for another fun evening of Trunk-or-Treat! **Come Join Us!**

Saturday, **October 25th** at 3:00pm St. Paul's will be hosting a Trunk-or-Treat night. *We could use some more volunteers to decorate their trunks and hand out candy.*

If you have never done it before, it's easy and fun and we'd love to help you get started!

Please contact Lauren McCloskey through the Parish Office for more information and to reserve a spot. Come help St. Paul's reach out to our neighbors and community with a little fun!



Blessing of the Pets



BLESSING OF THE PETS

Saint Paul's announces that there will be a blessing of the pets **October 26, 2025**, at 1:00 pm (14 W. Pennsylvania Avenue). Everyone is invited to bring pets (or pictures of pets) for the blessing.

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.

Please call the Parish Office or email @ Officeadministrator@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org to name the person you would like to remember in this way by October 22, 2025. Please give the name, relationship to you and date of death.

Please address any questions to the Worship and Arts Committee.
Betsy Galliher



Pastor's Peace

"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." 1 John 3:18

As the leaves change and the air grows crisp, we find ourselves once again in the heart of autumn. October is a time of thanksgiving for the harvest, of preparing for the darker and colder days ahead—but for us, it's also a time to remember our roots.

October 31st marks Reformation Day, the day in 1517 when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg. It was a bold act, not intended to divide the Church, but to call it back to the heart of the Gospel, the good news that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. What began as a scholarly invitation to debate certain church practices became the spark that ignited a movement. But the Reformation was never meant to be about division or rebellion for its own sake; it was a call to return to the Gospel.

At its heart, the Reformation was about rediscovering the central truth of our faith: that we are justified by grace through faith, apart from works of the law (Romans 3:28). This truth, hidden beneath centuries of human tradition and ecclesiastical power, was like a buried treasure unearthed. Luther, and the Reformers with him, did not invent the Gospel, they recovered it. This truth remains just as powerful today as it was over 500 years ago. In a world full of performance-based acceptance and conditional love, we proclaim a message that runs counter to culture: we are loved, forgiven, and accepted; not because of what we've done, but because of what Christ has done for us.

We find for ourselves that there is much division in our world and a failed acceptance to see others for themselves and not necessarily as how we would expect them to be. Luther's movement was not about bringing about discord and dissention, it was about finding ways to bring his church into the life God had created. Many of us struggle with the fact it is difficult to hear other people's opinions and respect for them the place they come from, even when it does not necessarily align with what we believe. We are called to embrace our differences, not always having to agree, but to agree we each have our own beliefs which might not align.

One of the enduring legacies of the Reformation is the principle of *ecclesia semper reformanda*—"the Church must always be reformed." This doesn't mean constant

novelty or change for the sake of change. Rather, it means that we, as the body of Christ, must continually examine ourselves in light of the Word of God. Like the changing of the seasons, the Church must always be open to the Spirit's work of renewal and repentance.

In our own day, we face different challenges than those of Luther's time. The questions may have changed, but the need for Gospel clarity remains. We live in a world increasingly skeptical of truth, anxious about the future, and lonely in the crowd. What does the Reformation mean in such a world?

It means we continue to preach Christ crucified. It means we still baptize in the name of the Triune God. It means we still gather at the Lord's Table to receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. It means we hold fast to Scripture as our authority, not human opinion. It means we remain a people shaped by grace alone, faith alone, and Scripture alone.

Reformation isn't only about Church history; it's about our story. Luther taught that every baptized Christian is a theologian, and every home is a "little church." So this October, consider the following:

Return to the Word: Let Scripture have the final say in your life. Open your Bible not just for information, but for transformation.

Lean into Grace: Reject the voices (internal and external) that tell you that you must earn God's favor. Christ has already done it all.

Live Vocationally: Whether you are a student, a parent, retired, working, or unemployed—God is at work through your daily tasks to serve your neighbor.

Worship Boldly: Participate in the means of grace, Word and Sacrament. That is where God has promised to meet us.

"Now faith us the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible." Hebrews 11:1-3

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

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our St. Paul's Year Round Stocking Stuffer project. Your gift in kind donations as well as financial donations are going to make a huge impact in our Community. Local area Children will receive a stocking from Santa! Saint Paul's dedication to stockings for the Walkersville Christmas Toy Shop has been a special endeavor for many, many years. We are proud to be working with Glade Valley Community Services to bring Christmas joy to children here in Walkersville. Our congregation's generosity and spreading our mission, ***"Through Christ, we joyfully feed the body, mind and spirit of all."*** have made this possible. Thank you again.

— Sincerely, Kay Wachter



COME JOIN US

Bring the whole family together for a fun evening of faith, fellowship, and film! Enjoy a great film, complete with popcorn, peanuts and refreshments. It's the perfect opportunity to spend time together! Invite friends and neighbors to join the fun. Friday, October 24th @ 7:00pm in the overflow area of the church.



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. St. Paul's is very happy to be assisting GVCS in helping families have a blessed meal on Thanksgiving.





Saint Paul's Congregational Council

St. Paul's Congregational Council currently has 10 voting members serving on Council. According to the approved constitution amendment, the Congregational Council must have at least 8 voting members with no more than 12 voting members serving a two (2) year term with eligibility of running for three (3) consecutive terms of two (2) years each for a total of six (6) years consecutively.

The Nominating Committee of St. Paul's Lutheran church is seeking nominations for five (5) voting members to fill five (5) seats. *Nominations will be accepted through December 31, 2025.*

The Congregational Council currently has three (3) members whose **terms end in January 2026**.

- *One member is running again for another two year term.*
- Two members are coming off council. Seeking nominations for two (2) voting members to fill these two seats to serve a two (2) year term from January 25, 2026 to January 30, 2028.

In addition, to have the maximum of 12 voting members serving on council, seeking nominations for two (2) more voting members to serve a two (2) year term from January 25, 2026 to January 30, 2028.

The duties of serving on the Congregational Council are outlined in the attachment, bit.ly/4845WBM. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the Nominating Committee for any additional information by phone, email or at church on Sundays.

You might be asking yourself, "Why me?" and the response would be "Why not you!" This is an opportunity for personal growth and stepping outside one's comfort zone:

- To grow in your relationship with Christ
- Discover your purpose and feel fulfilled
- Use your skills and talents for the Kingdom
- To follow Jesus' example of serving others
- Be part of the mission of the church
- To find community in relationships with others
- Serving on council can be fun and rewarding

Please prayerfully consider serving on the Congregational Council. Please reach out to anyone on Council or Pastor Phil if you have any questions or are interested in serving on Council. Also, everyone is welcome to attend the council meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Your sisters in Christ,

Barb Cartwright, Marcia Gupta, Lauren McCloskey, and Sheila Kahler

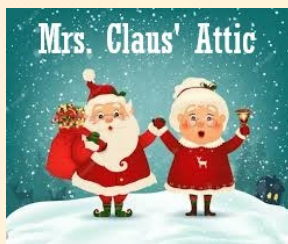


christkindl
— M A R K E T —

SAVE THE DATE
CHRISTKINDLMARKET 2025

Preparations have begun for the 8th annual Christkindlmarket. It will happen on **Saturday, December 6th** from 10am-2pm. Once again, the Walkersville Historical Society will be the event host. St. Paul's will have vendors, food similar to last year. Look for more information on those items as we get closer to the date.

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/>



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 decoration. So keep on the lookout if you hit up the local yard sales. If anyone has a good idea for a craft to do as a small group that we can add to the sale let us know. We will be looking for volunteers to help with the different areas so make sure you mark it on your calendars.

RE•FORMATION

THEN • NOW • ALWAYS

"Reformation Sunday challenges us to do better."

Through re-telling our story and returning to the core of our faith, Reformation Sunday prods us to do better.

We are called to be more loving and grace-filled, because God was gracious and merciful to us. We are called to repent of the times that we have placed barriers that have kept others from hearing the Good News. We are called to remember that all that we are is a gift from God.

In the church in Wittenberg where Martin Luther preached, there is a wonderful painting. In it Luther stands in the pulpit on the right hand side, and the people stand on the left. In between people and the preacher is Christ on the cross. Reformation Sunday is a reminder that this is the bedrock of our faith – the grace and mercy given to us in Jesus Christ. Keeping the most important thing in the center of the picture is the only hope for our faith and for this community that we call "church."

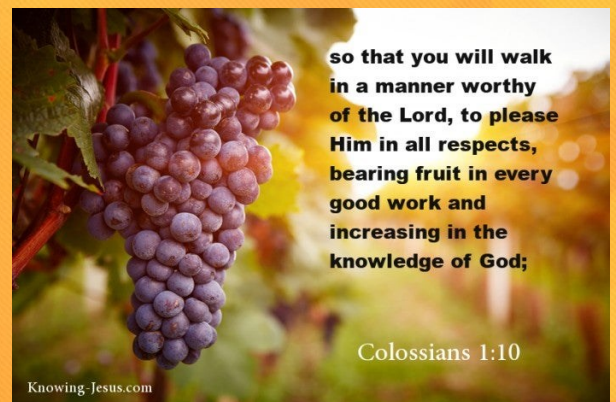
Sunday, October 26, 2025 — **WEAR RED!**

Happy Reformation Sunday!"

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Upcoming Events

- Oct. 5th - Ministry Sunday
- Oct. 12th - Harvest Home Sunday
- Oct. 18th - Community Dinner
- Oct. 24th - Movie Night, 7:00pm
- Oct. 25th - Trunk or Treat 3pm-5pm
- Oct. 26th - Reformation Sunday - WEAR RED!
Blessing of the Pets 1:00pm



so that you will walk
in a manner worthy
of the Lord, to please
Him in all respects,
bearing fruit in every
good work and
increasing in the
knowledge of God;

Colossians 1:10

Knowing-Jesus.com