

Epistle

December 2025 | Monthly Newsletter
Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
19 West Pennsylvania Ave., Walkersville, MD 21793
301-845-4600 | www.SaintPaulslutheranchurch.org



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

On Christmas Eve this year. We will our traditional 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service. Please consider joining us in person to celebrate the birth of our Lord.

You may join in the Livestream services via our Facebook page [@saintpaulslutheranofwalkersville](https://www.facebook.com/saintpaulslutheranofwalkersville). You can also watch live by going directly to our Website, www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org. The videos will be available on our page after the live recording for you to view whenever and wherever you may be this Christmas.

We pray during the Advent and Christmas Seasons, that we all can keep our mission statement in mind and at the forefront of our actions,
“Through Christ, we joyfully feed the body, mind, and spirit of all.”

POINSETTIAS

The Season is upon us! It's time to decorate the nave for Christmas!

Help us adorn our worship space in honor of our Savior's birth by purchasing a Poinsettia! Red are available for \$10.00 each.

Click the link, to order on line, <https://forms.gle/6eW56uj5zMEWaTER7>, sign up in church or in person at the Parish Office with a check or cash.

**The deadline for ordering is Sunday,
December 14th.**



December Birthdays

- Dec. 2—Elias Plowman
Journey Gardner
- Dec. 3—Matthew Plowman
- Dec. 4—Candace Foucart
Benjamin Zeller
- Dec. 8—Katrina Pank
- Dec. 12—Charles Easterday, Jr.
- Dec. 16—Dylan Barrett
Chris Leins
- Dec. 22—Madelyn Kahler
- Dec. 24— Russ Mildenstein
- Dec. 26—Gary Barrett, Jr.
Ella Johnson
- Dec. 28—Amy Mildenstein
- Dec. 29—Kathryn King
- Dec. 31—John Baker
Mike Waas

As we prepare to celebrate the joy and wonder of Christmas, we are looking for volunteers to serve as lectors (readers) for our upcoming pageant, **Olde English Inn**, December 14, 2025.

Lectors will help bring the story of Christ's birth to life. Whether you're an experienced reader or simply eager to share your voice and spirit, we'd love for you to take part.

If interested, please contact Lauren McCloskey through the Parish Office.



Hats & Mitten Tree

Give the gift of warmth!!

Now through December 15th you can hang hats and mittens on the tree in the front of the overflow area or drop them off at the Parish Office Monday through Friday between 9am and 1pm. All donations will go to Glade Valley for families in need.



Now through December 5th – Submit names of loved ones to receive a Winter Love bag to the Parish Office either via email or by phone.

Congregational Life Committee is asking for your support by donating monies for last minute fresh food or by purchasing the following items to help us fill the comfort bags: **Non food items:** Puzzle books, Mugs, Chapstick, Lotions, Shampoo, Soaps, Hand sanitizers Small Christmas ornaments or items, Decks of cards Candles, Combs/nail files/clippers, Cough drops **Food items:** Breakfast bars or other breakfast items Chips, Small snacks, Chips/ popcorn/nuts, Dried fruits Cookies/crackers, Tea, **Candy:** Candy canes, chocolate Hard candies, Other

Now through December 14th - Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Office during office hours, 9am-1pm or on Sundays (church).

Advent Devotionals

We will be using the devotional published by Luther Seminary this Advent season. You can access it several ways:

1. Go to this link: <https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/advent-devotional/> and download the regular or large print to print at home.
2. Click Subscribe to God Pause to receive the devotion through your email each day in advent (put in your name and email, and check the "God Pause Daily Devotions" box.)
3. Pick up a regular or large print version from the side table at church. (limited copies available). Be sure to get your copy!



Pastor's Peace

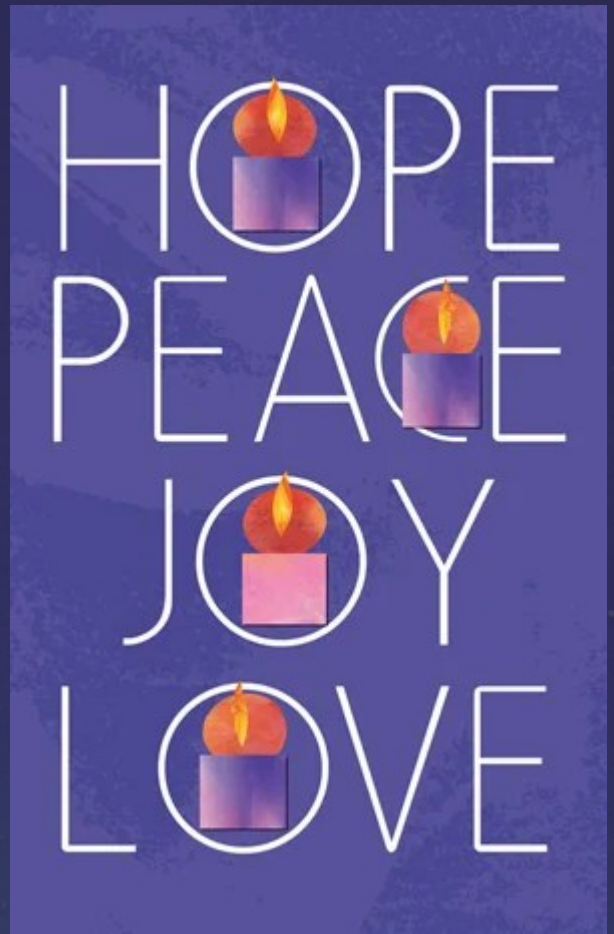
*"Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,
for His steadfast love endures forever!"*
Psalms 107:1

We have just concluded our November month of generosity, and we are grateful for all of the gifts you have shared with this community. Your time, talents, and treasures are greatly appreciated and welcomed in order that we be the voice of God in our loves. As we enter the Christmas season, our thoughts naturally turn to celebration, gathering, and joy. But at the heart of it all is a posture that shapes the entire Christian life: thanksgiving.

Christmas gives us a unique kind of gratitude, thankfulness rooted not in what we have accomplished, but in what God has done for us. I often remind this fellowship of saints that all we have, and especially all we receive in Christ, is pure gift with Christmas being the clearest expression of that grace. When Mary sings her Magnificat, she bursts forth in thanksgiving: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Her song is not one of pride or self-congratulation, rather, it is filled with gratitude for God's mercy, God's faithfulness, and God's surprising action in her life. This song is something for us to take to heart as we prepare to remember the Birth of our Lord, it should continue to write our story in our life with Christ.

We give thanks because God comes to us, not waiting for us to climb up to Him, but entering our world in vulnerability and love. In the Christ Child we meet a God who chooses humility, who chooses us, and who brings hope into the darkest corners of our lives. We give thanks because in Jesus, God's promises are made visible, hope is no longer abstract, it is real and definitive. Peace is no longer out of reach, salvation is no longer a distant dream, and the love of God envelops us each and every day.

We give thanks because the Christmas story extends into our daily lives. The God who was born in a manger is the same God who meets us in Word and Sacrament, who forgives us, restores us, and sends us out in love. Christmas gratitude is not confined to one day, it shapes how we live, serve, and trust in the One who has already given us everything we truly need.



Pastor's Peace cont'd

As we move through this season, perhaps with full schedules, family traditions, or quiet moments at home, I invite you to pause in genuine thanksgiving. Not simply for the blessings of the season but for the Blessing who came down from heaven to dwell with us. With hearts centered on Christ, may our lives echo Mary's song:

"The Mighty One has done great things for us, holy is His name. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"
Luke 2:14

Wishing you a blessed Christmas filled with deep gratitude and renewed hope,

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

A Look Back....



A 25+3 anniversary celebration for Women of the Evangelical Church was held in September, 2015 at St. Paul's in Walkersville. In the picture, seated left to right, are Dorothy Fogle, Margaret Powers and Dolores Denn. Standing, left to right, are Audrey McDougal, Dottie Titmas, Ellen Hatgi, Regina Baker, Kathryn Nicodemus, Betty Schubert and Florence Schell. Not pictured but present were Laura Grimes-Hartley and Shirley Eyler.

Happy December! As we embrace the season of Advent and prepare for Christmas, may we also take a moment to reflect on our church's rich history and look back at cherished memories.

A Look Back: We unearthed a photo from December 2015, where the Women of the ELCA group celebrated their impressive 25+3 anniversary. Though the group is no longer active, their spirit of fellowship and service lives on in our community and continues to inspire us.



"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."

- Pope Benedict XVI

Christkindl Market will be happening December 6th from 10am to 2pm. It is a fun town event sponsored by the Walkersville Historical Society. This year we will have a bake sale and will be offering spiced holiday nuts for sale. The bake table is still in need of baked goods. If you are able to donate a homemade baked item (or items) for the bake sale, it will be very much appreciated. You can bring your baked goods to the parish hall on Friday December 5th from 9am till noon and 1pm to 5pm. IF there are other ways you would like to participate, you can contact Amy or Russ Mildenstein through the Parish Office. If you have any questions about the bake sale you may contact Nancy Cochran at 2405294758



The best way to spread Christmas cheer is by singing loud for all to hear! Come share the magic of the season as we bring cheer and holiday classics to Bell Court.

653 Bell Ct, Woodsboro, MD 21798

Tuesday, December 9th starting at 6:00pm.
We will sing till about 7:00. We hope to hear you there!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 2 — Community Dinner, Executive Council
- December 3 — Walkersville Tree Lighting, 7pm
- December 6 — Christkindl, 10am-2pm
- December 7 — Second Sunday of Advent, Ministry Sunday
- December 9 — Caroling at Bell Court
- December 14 — Third Sunday of Advent, Olde English Inn, 3:00pm
- December 16 — Council
- December 20 — Community Dinner
- December 21 — Fourth Sunday of Advent
- December 24 — Christmas Eve 7pm Service
- December 25 — Christmas
- December 31 — New Year's Eve

