

# Epistle

January 2026

**Monthly Newsletter of Saint Paul's Lutheran Church**  
**19 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Walkersville, MD 21793**

301-845-4600, [www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](http://www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org)

## January Birthdays

Daniel Carroll	January 2
Tag Lutz	January 4
Katie Walker	January 13
Drew McLane	January 16
Bennett Chesnik	January 17
Kayla Plowman	January 17
Helen Lynch	January 20
Ed Chaney	January 20
Ella Ramacciotti	January 21
Donna Warner	January 25
Emily Gupta	January 26
Robb Port	January 29

## Town Hall/Annual Congregational Meeting

As we look ahead at our January Calendar, your Council Leadership wanted to highlight a couple of events for January.

As is always the case, January brings our annual Congregational meeting, which will be held in person immediately following Worship on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.

We have our annual budget to review and vote on, as well as our new council members.

Because we have had such success over the last few years with our Town Hall meetings, we will have one prior to our Annual Meeting on January 18th immediately following Worship. We will allow for a 30-40 min Town Hall Q & A for the purpose of asking any budget or renovation/repair questions. The Town Hall meeting will **NOT** include any voting, just questions. This will help to expedite the process during the voting at the Annual Meeting.

We will look forward to seeing you in person and online for these two important dates!

**Mark your calendars!!**  
**1/18/26 Town Hall**  
**1/25/26 Annual Meeting**





# Pastor's Peace

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

As the calendar turns and we begin a new year together, many voices around us encourage “new beginnings,” fresh starts, and resolutions for self-improvement. While these desires are understandable, the Church offers a deeper and steadier hope, one that does not depend on our resolve, but on God’s faithfulness. In Christ, every day already begins anew.

Martin Luther reminds us that the Christian life is one of daily repentance and daily renewal. Each morning, we return to the promises spoken over us in Holy Baptism: that we belong to Christ, that our sins are forgiven, and that we are raised to new life by grace alone. The new year does not erase our past nor guarantee ease ahead, but it does place us once again firmly in God’s hands.

As we move into this new year, rather than asking, “What will I accomplish this year?” perhaps we can ask, “Where is God calling me to love and serve?” There are many opportunities to serve our church and in doing so, serve our community. God’s love is made manifest in how we love our neighbor, how we serve using our hands to do God’s work, and how we share our gifts with each other. We have entered into so many places of outreach; St. Paul’s is certainly sharing God’s love in many ways. We continue to live out our Mission Statement of “through Christ, we joyfully feed the body, mind, and spirit of all” and have found new resources to sustain the many we have been called to serve.

There will be challenges ahead as this congregation continues to seek out new and innovative ways to be church in the community. I would encourage you to consistently share with others how God’s love has permeated your life, to gather around Word and Sacrament, to pray for one another, to bear one another’s burdens, and to proclaim the hope we have in Jesus Christ. One great goal I would have for the new year is to reach out and encourage those who have fallen away, to reconnect and join us in fellowship.

Please remember it might only take a kind word or invitation to have someone join us which may just be the spark they need. The peace of Christ be with you in the year ahead.

*“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:40*

May you have a happy and Blessed New Year!

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

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***“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD” – Proverbs 19:17***





# BE WARM, BE KIND

## ***HAPPY NEW YEAR!***

By Sheila Kahler

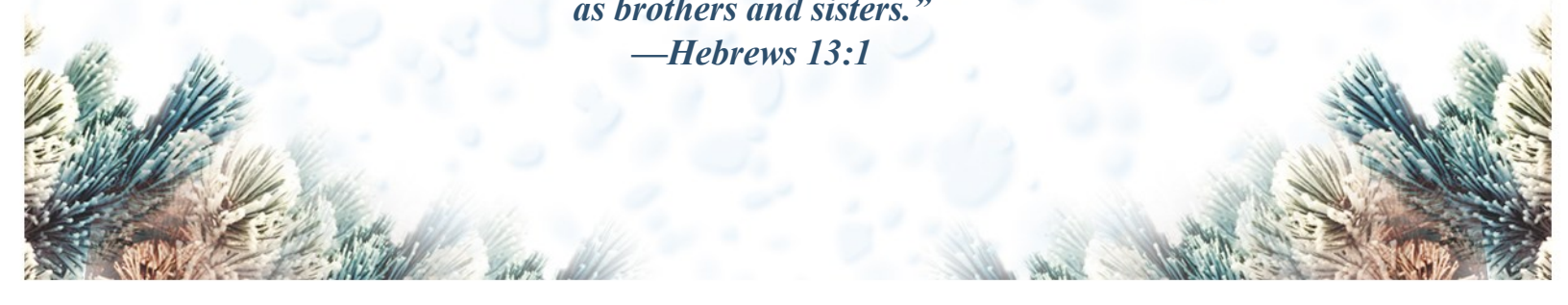
### ***Where did 2025 go and how can it be 2026 already?***

Thank you for sharing your time, talents and treasures with St. Paul's this past year as we lived out our mission "*Through Christ, we joyfully feed the body, mind, and spirit of all*" with one another, in our community and beyond. Through your generosity, collaboration and commitment to each other, we accomplished a lot in 2025. From the saints before us, their generosity provided funds for various improvement projects that were completed in 2025: new roofs on the church and parish hall and new awning on the back door of the social hall. Thank you for your continued support of the ministry work through Congregational Council, Congregational Life, Faith Formation, Finance, Generosity, Media & Tech, Property, Worship & Arts. St. Paul's is truly blessed to have dedicated folks like you to do the work God is calling us to do.

As we look forward to 2026, may God continue to bless you and this congregation.

Sheila Kahler  
Council President

***"Keep on loving one another  
as brothers and sisters."  
—Hebrews 13:1***







**VICTORIA PARK  
SOUPERBOWL EVENT  
SOUP AND BINGO  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH  
NOON-2:00PM**

Saint Paul's will be hosting this fun social event for the residents. We are looking for several volunteers to help and to provide soup and desserts for the event. Please see the link below to sign up. Donated items can be brought to Victoria Park at 11:30am on the day of the event or call if other arrangements need to be made.

Click this link to sign up: [Victoria Park - Souper Bowl Event](#)

Lori King 301-693-2328 or [lb69king@yahoo.com](mailto:lb69king@yahoo.com)  
Amy Mildenstein 301-646-3304 or [mrussamy28@gmail.com](mailto:mrussamy28@gmail.com)

## Upcoming Events

**January 4th**

Quilt Blessing

**January 17th**

Community Dinner 5:00pm

**January 18th**

Town Hall Meeting 10:00am

**January 25th**

Annual Congregational Meeting 10:00am

**January 31st**

Leadership Retreat 9:00am

**February 7<sup>th</sup>**

Victoria Park Super Bowl Event

