

Epistle *August*

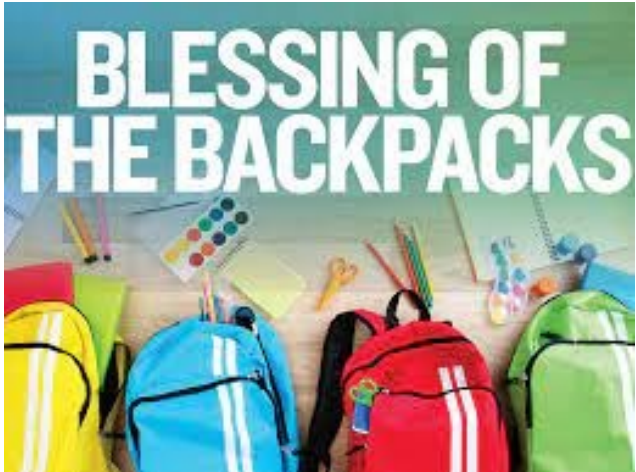
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—AUGUST 2024 — WWW.SAINTPAULSLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG—301-845-4600

BACK TO SCHOOL TIME ALREADY!

Sunday, August 18th is Blessing of the Backpacks!

Kids of all ages returning to school this fall are invited to attend the Sunday service on August 18th for a special blessing.

“Thank you for supporting the efforts of the Glade Valley Community Services with the collection of school supplies. Your donations, along with other churches and civic groups in the Walkersville area, will help families in need equip their children for a positive start to the school year. Extra supplies that are not distributed will be shared with local school counselors in order to ensure that students will have the tools to help them effectively navigate the school year. —Susan Hayes”



August Birthdays

- August 8th - Lukas Pank
- August 10th - Amy Koch
- August 14th - Kate Stottlemeyer
- August 15th - Erica Chesnik
- August 16th - Rebekah King
- August 19th - Riley Bruning
Sue-Etta Long
- August 20th - Phyllis Dayhoff
- August 21st - Thomas Kelley
- August 22nd - Jay Leins
- August 27th - Jackie Waas
- August 28th - 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 Annual Worship in the Park with the Blessing of Backpacks!

August 18th, 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 14, 2024!** We want to make sure we have enough chicken for everyone!

**Sunday,
August 18th
10:30am**

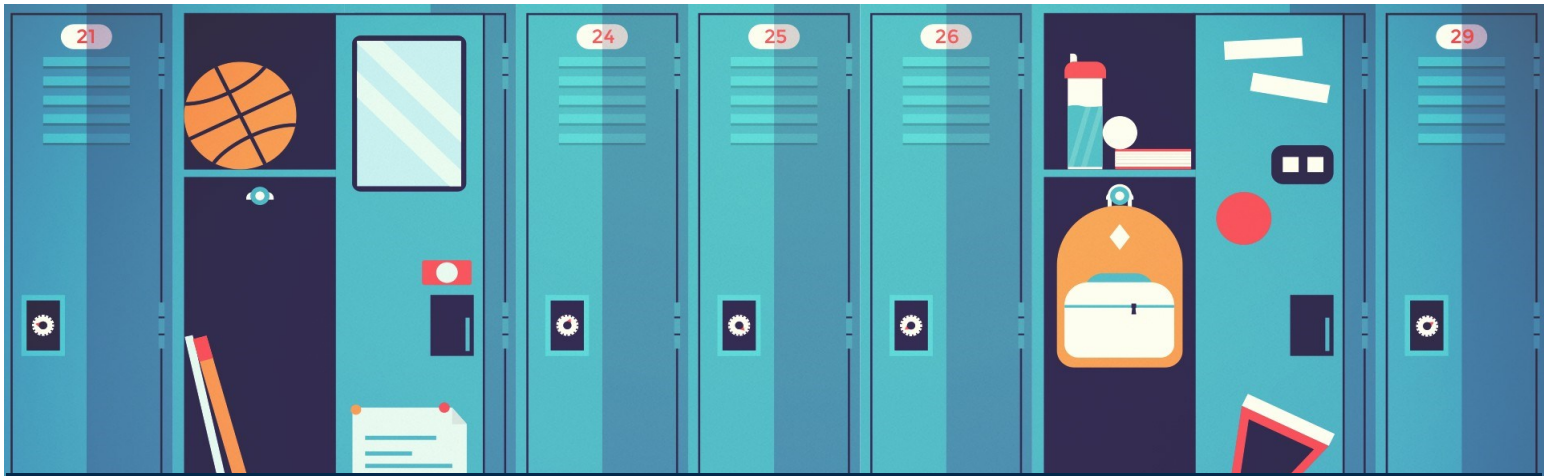


Saturday, August 24th from 6pm-8pm

"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

See the bulletin boards and weekly emails for more information!



Pastor's Peace

“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.” Matthew 7:1-5

Lately we have been hearing a lot about wants and needs in our Gospel Lessons. There are many things we seek out as our wants in the world but are they things we really need. There have been a couple of items I have been looking at on Facebook Marketplace and some I have acquired because I liked it, it fit my personality, and it was a nice addition to our home. Other things like a still or shuffleboard table have been also up there as something that I wanted and have been very particular about certain components of these items. Is it the right size, is the board laid out the way I envision, how much is it? This past Thursday I found the shuffleboard table I thought would work and the distance I would have to travel to acquire it would not be that far. I made arrangements to meet the seller but during the night, I found myself really pondering whether I needed this or it was just something I wanted. I decided and after a conversation with Sue, really understood it was a want and not a need so I cancelled my meeting with the seller.

There are many things that we have as wants and needs in our church. We may want an updated kitchen and elevator so that we can work our meals ministry here in Walkersville. We may want different music or a change in our liturgy so that it matches what we are comfortable with or have done for many years. We may want a pastor who is not sarcastic and who does everything we want a pastor to do, as long as it fits in with our picture of the pastor. The list goes on and on but is this list what we need. We have been able to partner with Woodsboro Lutheran to have a meals ministry in our community and it has branched out to a neighboring area (Bell Court) which has

made a significant impact in us serving our neighbor. The community is guaranteed a meal twice a month and for some that is a tremendous need. We are trying to grow in our worship and praise life in which we are trying different things, we are experiencing challenges but with each of these challenges, we have experienced our need to grow. As far as the sarcastic pastor, he tries and is continually making efforts to come beside you, provide loving care, meaningful messages, and an effort to give this community what it is seeking. Does he always fulfill that need, maybe not but that is where he is hopeful you will engage him in constructive conversation to assist in clearing up any misconceptions that might arise.

I believe it is important for us to realize what are our needs as opposed to our wants. This is where your Council comes in and to whom you should speak when you have ideas that might be beneficial in guiding our congregation forward. Our ultimate goal is to seek out our siblings in Christ to hear from them what their needs are, their needs are not for us to determine as we cannot know truly what someone else may need. We want to help, but we need to listen and we need to listen on many fronts. When we love our siblings we hear their needs and we are able to provide. When we love one another, we understand we are different yet are respectful in seeing each other as a child of God, serving a need and not a want. Ultimately, God serves all of our needs for he is our Good Shepherd and we shall not be in want.

*“¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”
Leviticus 19:18*

Peace IS with you!

Peace Pastor Phil

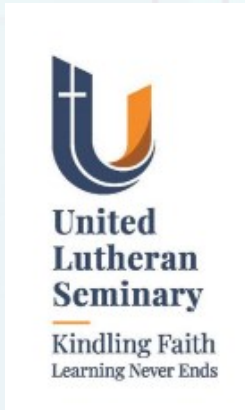
Email: pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org

Cell phone: 202-497-0584

Free Community Dinner

All are welcome!

St. Paul's will be sponsoring the monthly dinner on **August 17th** from 5pm-7pm. Please contact Roxanne Smith if you would like to volunteer your time or desserts. roxiesmith@verizon.net



What does it mean to be Lutheran in a crucial election year?

Thanks to one of our members, the cost for these seminars have been paid. We will be airing these on the big screen in the overflow area in the church from 7-8:30pm on the appointed evenings. There will also be a link available if you are not able to make it and would like to watch it from home. This will be like a follow up of our Gathered at the Table Series. Please contact the office to let us know you will be attending and feel free to bring snacks and drinks. **The next session is August 27th.**

Volunteers Needed



St. Paul's provides the space in the Parish Hall basement. There is a drop off box for gently used clothing items, etc. in the front parking lot of the Parish Hall. The Thrift Shop is open on Saturdays from 10 to 2. Members of St. Paul's are needed to donate their time to help staff the Thrift Shop during the month of September.

If you are interested in volunteering your time on a Saturday in September or any Saturday through the end of 2024, please contact the Church Office.



Pastor Phil will be on vacation from the afternoon of September 15th through September 30th. Worship on September 22nd will be at St. Paul's and Worship on September 29th will be at Bethel.

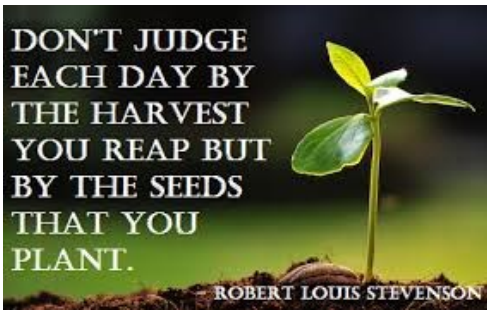


christkindl
— M A R K E T —

Even though it is August we are beginning preparations for the 7th annual Christkindl market. It will happen on **Saturday, December 7th** from 10am-3pm. Once again, the Walkersville Historical Society will be the event host. St. Paul's will have vendors, food and host the Wreath contest 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 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.

Co-chairs are Amy Mildenstein and Trish Valcarcel with an assist from Russ Mildenstein



Historically, the end of the summer (harvest) was celebrated to give thanks for the crops which had been safely harvested. Christians know God made the world and everything in it. He sends out to be workers in the field. He gave us an abundance of blessings for which we should be thankful. However, before we can harvest of our blessings, we need to first plant the seeds. So as the close of summer draws near, take a few minutes to reflect on those lazy, hot days and think about what “seeds you have planted” you have planted and are those seeds ready to be harvested.

A Prayer of Thanks by Bob Sostetler from Guidepost

Thank you God for the pleasures of summer,
 The bright sunny days and perfect moonlit evenings
 The smells of mowed grass and air thick with rain
 Thank you for days at the lake
 And evenings chasing fireflies
 For vacations and festivals
 Picnics and cook outs
 Baseball, concerts, swimsuits and popsicles
 Thank you for fireworks and thunderstorms
 For watermelon sweetness
 For summer’s pace and summer’s grace
 For all your beauty and power displayed in summer. Amen

—Submitted by Barbara Cartwright



On July 21st, 50 quilts were blessed to be donated to several charities within the community.

To continue this blessed ministry we are in need of cash donations. *Can you help?* You can put your donation in the plate, clearly marked "quilts", donate online in the giving section of our website or contact Kate Stottlemeyer.

Thank you.

Are you ready to lend a hand? Save the date!



Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 4th

Ministry Sunday, 10:00AM

Saturday, August 17th

Community Dinner, 5:00Pm-7:00PM, Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday, August 18th

Annual Church Picnic, Outdoor Worship and blessing of the backpacks, 10:30am

Saturday, August 24th

Rally Day Event, 6:00PM-8:00PM

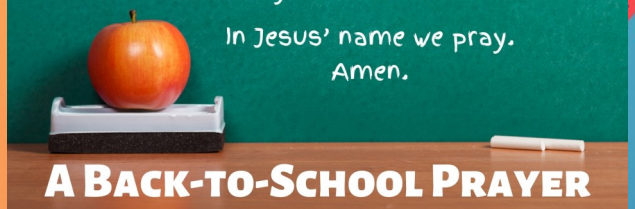
Tuesday, August 27th

“What Does It Mean to be Lutheran in a Crucial Election Year?”, 7:00PM

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