

Epistle

September 2024 | Monthly Newsletter of Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

14 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Walkersville, MD 21793 | 301-8465-4600 | www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org



God's Work, Our Hands



September 8, 2024

“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.”

In the spirit of joy for engaging in “God's Work Our Hands” project this year, we will be supporting and collaborating with the Lutheran Social Services National Capital Area in collecting and donating various items to build Home Arrival Kits for incoming refugees and for those in our communities who are facing hardship or relocating in the tri-state area.

Please see the flyer here, on the bulletin boards or weekly emails for a detailed list of items needed and prayerfully help us to provide any of these needs you feel called to. You may bring the items until September 29th to Church on Sundays, drop off items at the Parish Hall between 9am and 1pm, Monday through Friday, or make a monetary donation to purchase items needed.

*This will be a month long initiative for
God's Work Our Hands 2024.*

If you have any questions, please contact
Marcia Gupta or Marie Purswell.

Flyer on Page 5...

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. 19	Robert Hoff
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

One Seed Sprouts a Table for All

Our meal ministry all started with a conversation between Pastor Phil and Pastor Sean of Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church. The vision was to partner with Woodsboro and provide an additional monthly meal to our community. Pastor Phil handed the seed to our congregation; we gently took the seed and planted it with our dedication to Community Service. Our meal ministry has grown from serving meals at Woodsboro to Delivering 23 meals to the Bell court community. We just added delivering meals to Victoria Park, we are currently delivering 6 meals, and we believe more people will be signing up. Our meal ministry not only provides meals, its builds friendships, fellowship and affirms to our community and the people we serve, *we care*. I recently visited bell Court, and this is what they want you to know.

"I'm extremely grateful for the meal ministry. I do not Cook and I'm so happy to have this gift".-- Cheryl Fearnow, Marcie Stall

"St. Paul's generous undertaking of providing a wonderful meal for the Seniors at Bell court has truly been a blessing and uplifting of our spirits! We are grateful for their generosity". -- Dollie born

"I think it's fantastic, you have taken such an interest in us. We are blessed to have you here." -- Jeannie Morgan

"Why us? We don't get to go to church, but the churches come to us. The churches are very good to us. I'm very appreciative of Saint Paul's & Woodsboro cooking meal for us. I appreciate the volunteers and all who are involved in giving up their time to help provide the meals. All will be blessed! I always say, if you see someone without a smile, give them Yours!" -- Jim Anthony

I want to thank everyone who has volunteered, prayed for our ministry to grow and supported the meal ministry, together we are fulfilling our mission, through Christ we joyfully feed the body, mind, and spirit of all.

Peace,
Roxanne Smith



christkindl
— MARKET —

Even though it is August we are beginning preparations for the 7th annual Christkindl Market. It will happen on **Saturday, December 7th** from 10am-2pm. 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

"Every day, God gives us oppottunies tgo sow spiritual needs into the lives of others."
Tammy Kennington



Pastor's Peace

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13

What a joyful time it has been lately at St. Paul's. We spent one night with a group of kids doing crafts, eating food, and watching a Veggie Tales movie. It was like a sleepover party without the sleepover and I would say all had a fantastic time. I am grateful for our adult leaders who got everything put together and made it happen. On August 25 we were again blessed to have a sanctuary full of children who were all excited about God. Elias, Lilly, Alexis, and Journey all were gifted with bibles as we have done in the past for our Third Graders. Journey took another step in his faith adventure in becoming baptized with many friends and relatives supporting this child of God. Clary and Annabelle also took another step with Jesus as they celebrated their First Communion with the gathered faithful. These days were full of promise for what we as adults have witnessed and have obligated ourselves to nurture our young people in their seeking of God.

Much of what we need to do as we stand beside our youth is to encourage them to join us in worship with their families, as well as attend Faith Formation. It can be challenging to meet these commitments as our lives are full of other responsibilities, yet God should be our first responsibility. There are opportunities for our youth to become more involved in our worship as well. I would love to see more of our youth involved in acolyting, assisting as ushers, and serving as communion assistants. When we empower our youth to participate in the life of the church, they will feel ownership of their role as an active member of the congregation. We as adults should be nurturing this activity and supporting our youth in their faith journeys which may just lead to a lifetime of connection with the church. I believe that is what we commit to when we present our children for Baptism, to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that they may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.



Pastor's Peace cont'd

The commitment starts with the example of our families and how they model a life with Christ. It is one thing to say we are committed to being active in our children's lives in the church, it is another to live this out each day. We as a congregation also have a responsibility to see if families are struggling and where we might be able to foster our youth's growth in the faith. Are you willing to be a mentor, teacher, assistant, or whatever it takes to have the liveliness of our youth present each time we come together as a community? Many people have commented how wonderful it is to have a sanctuary full of youth and that is something this congregation has sought for some time. It will take work, engagement, and the necessity of adults fulfilling their Baptismal promises to have this come to fruition. Yet, if you think of the rewards our youth will reap, there could be no greater gift this congregation could present to our young families than a life with Jesus at their side.

"Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls" 1 Peter 1: 8-9

Peace IS with you!

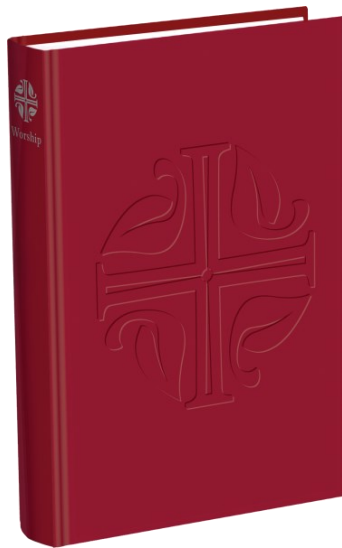
Peace Pastor Phil

Email: pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org

Cell phone: 202-497-0584

***Enjoy a healthy fall, the seasonal colors, the pumpkins, the start of school
and shorter days and longer, calm evenings.***

"God's Grace falls gently as a leaf from above and colors our world with peace"



Hymnal Dedication— Thelma Powell

“Congregational songbooks are friends and companions on the Christian journey. They accompany believers through the church year, amidst significant events like baptisms and funerals, and in times of great faith and doubt.”

We have new hymnals in our pews. With remembrance and great thanks we are dedicating them to God’s glory and to our own song bird, Thelma Powell.

With these hymnals we will remember Thelma through music, her passion and her gift. She was a member of our Choir since 1947, just two weeks after she began attending St. Paul’s. Her love of music guided her to direct the Junior Choir for many years. She sang in our Senior Choir from 1947 until she was no longer able and went to reside in assisted living in 2016. That is 69 years that she blessed us with her beautiful natural alto voice.

Not only was she a member of St. Paul’s Choir, she was also a long time dedicated member of the Women of the ECLA. Their purpose statement is *“As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.”* Thelma absolutely affirmed her gift of song in our music ministry here at St. Paul’s as well as throughout the Walkersville/Lewistown areas.

If you were blessed to know Thelma in our Choir, you will know there is truly such a thing as the “Thelma Note”. This was the second note of every song and it was Thelma’s, the alto note. Thelma’s love of all music and singing, along with her kind heart were not only an inspiration to her children but to everyone.

These hymnals are her gift to us. Her gift of song and her love of music made her the musical light of our congregation. From now on, every time we open them, her light will continue to shine and her music ministry will live on.

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And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

— Romans 8:30



**LUTHERAN
SOCIAL SERVICES**
National Capital Area



RESOURCE CENTER DONATION NEEDS!

CURRENT HIGHEST NEEDS



- Men's Clothing****
- Youth 3T- Size 12 Clothing****
- Kids Toothpaste**
- Can Openers****
- Queen Blankets****
- Baby Shampoo/Wash**
- Nail Clippers**
- Infant Car Seats****
- Booster Car Seats****

PERSONAL/ HYGINE ITEMS:

- Toilet Paper
- Menstrual Pads
- Tampons
- Shampoo
- Body Wash
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Lip Balm
- Toothpaste-Adult
- Toothpaste-Children's
- Floss
- Toothbrushes-Adult
- Toothbrushes-Children
- Nail Clippers
- Razors
- Hair Combs/Brushes
- First Aid Kits
- Condoms
- Thermometers
- Multipurpose Cleaner
- Dish Soap
- Sponges/Scrubbers
- Laundry Detergent
- Clothing-of all sizes

HOME/KITCHEN ITEMS:

- Twin Blankets **
- Queen Blankets **
- Twin Sheets**
- Queen Sheets**
- Pillowcases
- Pillows
- Bath Towels
- Hand Towels
- Brooms/Dustpans
- Mugs/Cups **
- Plates **
- Bowls **
- Pot & Pan Sets**
- Large Stockpots **
- Cooking Spoons **
- Measuring Cups**
- Measuring Spoons**
- Can Openers **
- Silverware Sets **
- Tea Pots/Kettles**

INFANT/CHILDRENS ITEMS:

- Pack-N-Plays **
- Strollers **
- Infant Car Seats **
- Booster Seats**
- Baby Blankets **
- Bottles
- Body Wash
- Washcloths
- Lotion
- Diaper Powder
- Pacifiers
- Wipes
- Diapers- All Sizes
- Pull-Ups- All Sizes
- Toys **
- Books**
- Backpacks
- Lunchboxes

For questions, please email ResourceCenter@lssnca.org

*Items marked with "***" may be used but MUST be in like-new condition and cleaned prior to donation. Clothing MUST be free of stains or tears!*

Treasurer's Report
INCOME & EXPENSES FOR JULY 2024

CURRENT FUND		PROPERTY RENOVATION LOAN FUND	
Total Offerings	\$ 7,085.71	Total Offerings	\$ 1,885.00
Expenses	\$ (11,371.98)	Loan Payment	\$ (1,525.00)
Subtotal	\$ (4,286.27)	Surplus for 7/31/24	\$ 360.00
Other Income:			
Misc	\$ 1,408.67		
Rental Income	\$ -		
Deficit for 7/31/24	\$ (2,877.60)		

YEAR-TO-DATE INFORMATION FROM 01/01/24 TO 07/31/24

CURRENT FUND		PROPERTY RENOVATION LOAN FUND	
Weekly Offerings	\$ 69,833.19	Offerings	\$ 14,995.00
Lent	\$ 362.00	Principle Reduction	\$ -
Easter	\$ 115.00	Interest	\$ 0.75
Interest/Dividend	\$ 1,193.50	Total Income	\$ 14,995.75
Rental	\$ 13,520.00		
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 933.45	Loan Payments	\$ (10,675.00)
Strawberry Festival	\$ 1,700.07		
Shared Ministry	\$ 666.66		
Misc	\$ 4,939.61		
Total Income	\$ 93,263.48		
Less Operating Expenses	\$ (99,938.76)	Property Renov Loan Fund	
		Surplus thru 7/31/24	\$ 4,320.75
Current Fund		Balances owed on:	
Deficit thru 7/31/24	\$ (6,675.28)	Mortgage as of 7/2024	\$ 125,081.39

Upcoming Events:

- September 1** -Ministry Sunday
- September 3** -Community Dinner, Executive Council
- September 6**—Bingo
- September 15** — Chat After Service, Faith Formation Begins
- September 21** — Community Dinner
- September 22** —Worship Combined @ St. Paul's 9am
- September 29** — Worship Combined @ Bethel 11:15am

