



St. Paul
Lutheran Church

Walking Together

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

Catonsville, MD

October 2022

From the Pastor's Desk

GENEROUS GOD, GENEROUS PEOPLE

“For God so loved the world, that he gave ...” John 3:16

Most of us know how that verse ends. God gave his Son so that we would believe in Him and not perish.

But the verse has a lot to say even when it is shortened. God loves the world and He gives. He is a generous God. Showers us with goodness. Fills us with forgiveness. Feeds us at His table. Washes. Gives us what we need. Provides eternal life for us. Our God is a generous God.

And He makes us into generous people. As Jesus gives himself on the cross and gives Himself for us in grace and mercy, He shapes us into generous people. God calls us to share what we have with others to provide for our loved ones, to care for those in need, to support the church, to give as He has given to us. All we have has been given to us by our generous God. We too become generous people.

In October, St. Paul will be having a generosity campaign. We will celebrate our “Generous God” and seek to be “Generous People”. Here is what will happen. Each week we will have a short presentation during the announcements:

“Witness” -- the joy of giving

“Celebrate” – what your offerings to St. Paul accomplish

“Teach” – what the Bible says about generosity

“Engage” -- sermon on generosity

On the 23rd members will be given the opportunity (voluntary, of course) to fill out a private card indicating to themselves how they plan to share the generosity God has shown to them in 2023. This will include offerings, family commitments, sharing time by serving others and other ways you intend to respond to God's goodness. Members will place the card in an envelope and seal it. It will then be mailed back to each person in June of 2023 as a reminder of what our intentions were. No one but the person who filled it out will ever see it.

I pray this generosity campaign will deepen our thanks for a God who gives us all things!

Pastor Alms

Jesus calls us to be a Lutheran community gathered around Word and Sacrament and sends us to reach the lost, disciple the saved, and care for our neighbors everywhere.

From the Congregational President

What is this heat in September? It's fall...we should be able to wear hoodies and not sweat to death. Everyone is getting into a rhythm with school and work and extracurricular activities.

We had a special voter's meeting to address two items. One was a housing allowance resolution for Melissa Sunstrom. The other was for a new sound board for the church and school. Both motions passed. Thanks to everyone who stayed after church for the quick meeting.

Council has not yet met in September (at the time of this writing). We are still in need of a Vice President. It is a light commitment and can provide insight into how decisions are made and how the council and boards work together. The VP also chairs the personnel committee to help shape various aspects effecting the employees of the church and school (like pay scale, personnel manual, etc.). If you are interested in this position, let me know.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns you would like to see addressed, please let us know. Our next church council meeting is October 18th, 2022 at 7 pm.

Blessings to all,
Aaron Nelson
nelsaar@yahoo.com

News From the Elders

The Elders for 2022-23 are:

Kevin Dungey (Chairman)
Jim Baeder
Norm Giguere
Bill Oldhouser
Jeff Piegols
Bruce Staudinger

If you have not done so already, you will soon receive a letter identifying the Elder assigned to you and briefly summarizing the role the Elders play in our congregation. If you do not know which Elder has been assigned to you, please contact Kevin Dungey. Although you may hear the members to whom a particular Elder is assigned referred to as that Elder's "flock," please understand that flock assignments are for organizational purposes only and are not intended as a limitation: all of the Elders are responsible for the spiritual care of all of the members, so you should feel free to contact any of the Elders with your prayer requests or other concerns.

New pictorial directories are available in the narthex. Please take one and check your name on the list to confirm that you have received your copy. The Elders would like to thank Jim Lister and Dana Stigdon for their outstanding work in putting the directory together.

In His service,

Bill Oldhouser,
Board of Elders

St. Paul Day School News

The 2022-2023 school year at St. Paul is off to a wonderful, energy-filled start. The children are happy to be back with each other and to meet (and in many cases love) their new teachers since they have each moved up a grade. Perhaps this is the first “normal” start of school since the pandemic, with its, at times, overwhelming fear and sudden and then prolonged closures, began back in early March of 2020. You have probably read the accounts of how difficult the pandemic has been on children’s mental health and learning. We can be grateful to God and indeed proud that our school has been able to remain open and has in fact been able to minister to and meet the educational needs of our students and especially of the many students who came to us because the public schools were closed.



We have new teachers in our school, and we had hoped to introduce them to you, but the beginning of a school year turns out to be extremely busy. Stay tuned and you will meet some of our new teachers and find out how God called them to minister with us in the next Newsletter.

Perhaps you are aware of St. Paul’s Lunch on the Lawn, a picnic held Sunday, September 18, from noon to 2 PM, a wonderful opportunity provided by our Mission Board members and other volunteers from St. Paul for members of the community and school families to enjoy a cookout (hamburgers and hot dogs, plus homemade desserts, fruit, salads). The center of activity was the new “Gaga pit,” an octagonal wooden structure built as an Eagle Scout project near the parking lot in our fenced grassy area paralleling Old Frederick Road; the Gaga pit resounded the entire time to the happy shrieks of the children who played this safer version of the old (and sometimes violent) game of Dodgeball (no throwing; no hitting above the knees; a rather soft foam ball propelled by hand or foot-lots of running, jumping, and dodging). The children and families who attended were mostly from our Early Childhood Center and our Day School (there were also a few graduates). Members of the Day School Board who took part were told many times by children's parents how wonderful the school has been for their children, how they feel loved and cared for (we at St. Paul would recognize that they are learning about the love of Jesus), how they have learned to care for each other (we saw many children walking hand-in-hand, dear friends already), and how they love to learn. In fact, one parent told a Day School Board member that her daughter was dressed and ready for school on Saturday and was deeply disappointed to learn that Saturday was not a school day! We can all be so very proud of the good our school/ECC has done and continues to do, grateful for the service of our devoted staff, and grateful that St. Paul is a place where others experience the real love of Jesus Christ.

The Day School Board

Family Fun Nights: Be!

Family Fun Night #3 is October 28th from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The theme is “BE Thankful!” Worship, songs, pizza, crafts and activities. For ages 3 through 4th grade. [SIGN UP HERE.](#) Parents - gather for a time of learning and growing. Please join us for the Nine Practices of the Proactive Parent that help lay a solid foundation of biblical character training that reaches your children’s hearts



Ladies Guild

Ladies please mark your calendars:

- * October 15th is the Christian Growth Workshop at St Paul Glen Burnie. Breakfast will be served, registration is \$5.00, new flip flops any size are the ingathering. I need to give them a head count so please let me know if you plan on attending by October 8th.
- * Remember to start getting your gently used books together to donate to our book sale in November. Books can be given to Robbin Dungey.
- * Our next meeting will be Tuesday October the 25th, watch news and notes for place and time.
- * The large mite box will be in the narthex the 1st Sunday in October.

Youth News!

Save the date: Join the youth groups from other local area Lutheran Churches for paintball on October 9th. More information to come. Cost expected to be about \$35.

From the Asset Management Board

Boiler repairs have recently been done to repair some leaks and change out the temperature gauge. A new controller as also been installed. We should have one more repair for a valve actuator to prepare us for the heating season.

Please make sure that exterior doors have latched when you exit the building. If you are the last one to leave the building, please check to make sure that all doors are latched and locked. There have been occasions when the doors have not latched and the building has been left unsecure.

Thank you, Suzanne Giguere

Sunday School and Adult Bible Classes

What are we learning on Sunday Mornings?

Adult Class meets in the fellowship hall! Pastor is leading a study of the Gospel of Luke. They are currently in chapter 13.

Women's Class meets upstairs in the conference room, facilitated by Dana Stigdon. They are studying Great Women of the Bible. In October they will learn about Sarah, Rebekah and Leah.

Sr. High Youth meets in the 5th grade classroom behind the organ. They are studying Not-So-Nice Bible Stories – Gory Deaths. The next five weeks will cover: Surf's Up, Hanging Around and Getting the Point, Puppy Chow, Decapitation Dance, and The Worm King.

Elementary/Middle School Youth: 6th – 8th Grade meets in the Media Center, taught by Jeffrey Hemmeter. K – 5th Grade meets in the First Grade classroom beside the Media Center, taught by Andia Orujov. In October they will be studying Zacchaeus, Jesus is Crucified, Jesus Rises, The Emmaus Road, and Jesus Ascends.

Substitute Teachers If you are occasionally available to teach Sunday School, please contact Pastor so we can compile a list of substitutes. We have curriculum and can assist you in getting ready.

From the Mission Board

ESL Class

The Fall session of English as a Second Language (ESL) began on Monday, September 19. We had 17 students at the first class- a number we haven't seen in several years. Many were immigrants who have been here less than a year. Others were returning students. What a blessing!

Lunch on the Lawn



Our first free community "Lunch on the Lawn" was a success. Approximately 90 people attended and enjoyed grilled burgers and hot dogs (thank you Brian Erwin!), games on the lawn, and lots of sides and desserts. We

enjoyed getting to know our neighbors, and were told they view St. Paul as a church that reaches out to the community.



Trunk or Treat

Mark your calendars. October 29, 3:00 – 4:00, is our Trunk or Treat event. Last year we had 17 decorated trunks, and we hope we have even more this year. If you would like to host a trunk, contact Irene Giguere, 410-747-1619.

All Saints Sunday

Remembrance of the Faithful Departed is November 6th

If you have any Christian family or friends who have passed away since All Saints Sunday 2021 you can submit them to the church office. We will mark each name with a toll of the bell and a Scripture verse. Please email dana.stigdon@splscatonsville with the name and relation of the departed, or call the church office at 410-747-1897.

Lutheran Books and Beer

Our next meeting will be on Thursday October 27th at 7 p.m. at the Rathskellar in Arbutus/Elkridge (5782 Main Street.) We will try to meet every 4th Thursday at the same time and place. Our book this year is *Grace upon Grace: Spirituality for Today* by John Kleinig.

Here is a brief description of the book: The longing for spiritual fulfillment, inevitably paired with spiritual frustration, is common among Christians. Do we read and study the Bible enough? Do we worship and pray enough, in the correct way, and for the right things? How do we become truly spiritual? And the answers from numerous self-help spirituality books only lead to confusion. Kleinig clarifies that there is no process for becoming spiritual. Instead, God graciously gives to us every spiritual gift that we need, beginning with the very gift of faith in Christ. [Order a copy here](#) (Kindle or paperback) and join us!

Dinners for Eight

Join us for this fellowship activity. Sign up during the month of September and groups can start meeting in October, if they want.

What is it? It's a social fellowship activity where 4 couples meet together for dinner and other possible activities. The purpose is to get to know other members of the St. Paul community.

How does it work? Each couple hosts one dinner for the eight over a 6 month period of time (total of 4 dinners all together).

Where does it take place? Dinners are in your home and the homes of the other hosts.

How are couples grouped? To encourage interaction, we'll combine new members with "seasoned" members (notice I didn't say "old!")- and make it intergenerational.

Suppose I'm not a "couple"? Any 2 people can be considered a couple- then can share cooking activity at either's home.

Suppose my house isn't big enough? You can meet outside for a picnic/barbeque, gather at a restaurant, have pizza at Sorrentos, etc.

Can I do this with my family? If several families are interested, we can group them together- and suggest some babysitting possibilities.

Procedure: Sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board OR talk with Linda Klingmeyer or Irene Giguere.



Lutheran Witness Subscriptions

Interpreting the world from a Lutheran perspective.

The Lutheran Witness, the official publication of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, is a must-read for Lutherans of all ages! Published 11 times a year—monthly, with a combined June/July issue—*The Lutheran Witness* keeps you updated with news from the Synod, and addresses topical issues with feature articles, columns, Q&As, and more that will both inform and inspire.

If you would like to subscribe to *The Lutheran Witness* magazine, the cost is \$12.95 per year. Please fill out the envelope in the narthex and leave it in the offering plate. Subscriptions will begin in January.

Lutheran Marriage Encounter

Give your spouse the gift of YOU on a Lutheran Marriage Encounter experience! The next online Virtual Experience is scheduled for October 14 - 16, 2022. Apply now at GodLovesMarriage.org, or contact Randy & Jill Sigler at randjsigler@allophone.com or 402-560-3475 for more information. Pre-registration is required – don't miss out!

News from the Ramirez Family

The Ramirez family is back serving the Lord in Peru! You may read their newsletter [HERE](#). You may also look for them on facebook for more updates, photos and videos from the mission field. www.facebook.com/RamirezMissions



News From The Village at Augsburg

Bull and Oyster Roast

There is still time to purchase your ticket to Augsburg's big 130 year- anniversary fundraising event: The Bull and Oyster Roast.

Saturday, October 15

1-5pm

Location: Martins West

Tickets: \$130 each

Contact Zach Heeter for more information or to purchase a ticket:- zheeter@thevillageataugsburg.org . If you have an Augsburg story that you wish to share, please email your story to Zach at the email address above. Each story will be presented at the Bull and Oyster Roast.

Amazon.Smile

Support The Village at Augsburg while making purchases through your Amazon account! Go to smile.amazon.com and choose Augsburg Lutheran Home of MD Inc as the designated charity. Augsburg will automatically receive 0.05% of the price of your eligible purchases! Thank you!

Volunteer Opportunities

Over 200 people have made The Village at Augsburg, a National Lutheran Community, their home. These residents love the arts, nature, and lectures! We offer a beautiful, welcoming setting for you to share your passions and gifts with the older adults.

Come once or as often as your schedule allows! Examples of volunteer experiences are:

- Gardening
- Pet visits
- Art, music, poetry reading
- Reading to residents
- Administrative and clerical support

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact : Tina Minio, Resident Services Manager at 410-484-3099 or email at tminio@thevillageataugsburg.org. Tina will give you further information and guide you through the application process.

Submitted by Sandy Hayes